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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

In the last century Lord Chatham used occasionally to be afflicted with a peculiar disorder called "a political gout." That Mr. Gladstone's influenza has been political also is more than we would venture positively to say. But we may well believe that the delay in his statement (which compels us, of course, to postpone all criticism of it for this week) has been of great convenience to the Ministry at a time of such agitation. They must have been (at least they ought to have been) most anxious to get the latest assurances that the peace of Europe will be secured before committing themselves to further intimacy with the French Emperor. They must have seen the effect produced by the Savoy and Nice project in the public mind—a project which has done so much to neutralise the attractions of the commercial treaty. So great, indeed, has that effect been that, to say nothing of the monetary results of it, it has thrown all other political questions into the background for the time. Taken in connection with the aspect of things in Italy, the project in question is, in fact, calculated to raise all the alarms which, some weeks ago, appeared likely to subside entirely.

It is not too much to say that there is no political party in England favourable to the annexation of Savoy and Nice to the French empire. The debate in the Lords on Tuesday was most significant as to that point; while in ability and English spirit it was well worth the imitation—though we suspect it was beyond the rivalry—of the Lower House. The motives of Polonius Lord Normanby might be suspicious, and it is just those new aristocrats whom the Legitimist Princes of Europe know how to coax into carrying their trains. But what he said on the special question found support of every kind—from the acute and caustic Lord Grey—the high-minded, eloquent Lord Derby—from venerable Brougham and "Goody-goody" Shaftesbury. All these statesmen saw that the annexation was resolved upon and had been bargained for; that it was a blow at the Treaties of 1815 and at the balance of power; that its revelation undid the high pretensions of the late war, and must tinge with uncertainty the whole future; and that the free-trade promises to England were really a bribe to her to acquiesce in its injustice and menaces. Let there be no mistake on this point, at home or abroad. Thanks to those liberties which a wise aversion to revolution has preserved for us there need be no mistake. We have a Parliament to speak, and a press to write our thoughts. We

need not resort to all that tedious double-dealing which marks Imperialist policy—hints thrown out through journals, and denied again—answers given with reservations and qualifications to diplomatists—delays alternating with *coups*, and the language of democratic revolution talked to prepare the way for deeds of despotic force. These things, which show cunning rather than wisdom, are not and ought not to be either employed by Englishmen or believed in by them. All that we

of power. But, when we consider the occasion taken for the movement, it acquires new importance. The occasion is the success of a war which nothing excused but its apparent and loudly-professed disinterestedness. Take away from Napoleon's campaign the *element of generosity*, and it becomes aggression; it was either disinterested or wicked. But what shall we say to a generosity that insists on pay? a chivalry that turns Austria out of the purlieu of Italy, and plants itself permanently at the window?

a liberator who still keeps the liberated country under his thumb till he has secured his remuneration? What, but that the better the professions of such politicians, the worse is likely to be the upshot of their action, just in proportion as their designs seem more liberal?

As for the fundamental principle on which the French pretensions to Savoy and Nice are based, it is fraught with peril. The principle is, that the people desire to change their régime, which might be brought against ourselves in half a dozen countries, and which leaves the door open to every kind of force and fraud. If Napoleon wants those places, and Victor Emmanuel is not unwilling to cede them, what chance has an anti-annexation party of fair play? Who is to secure that the real feelings or wishes of the people will ever be attended to in the matter?

We repeat, there must be no mistake about the feeling of the British public on this subject. The constant pursuit of such a policy by the French Government would neutralise all the good promised by its commercial reforms. It would be a poor bargain to get cheaper wine and jewellery, and more custom for the iron and coal trades, if the condition was political subservience while the map of Europe was being altered piecemeal. No doubt we might by such a bargain get a closer alliance with France for a time; but, to say nothing of the dishonour, it would never last. Sooner or later our turn

would come, and then the naval preparations of the Empire would be explained more clearly than they have ever been by a Walewski to a Cowley.

This foreign question is the great one of the day, and really lends its peculiar importance to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement this year. We shall be able to discuss all its bearings more fully next week; and, meanwhile, we wind up with a notice of such minor subjects as this week supplies.

Lord John Manners' attempt to close the Divorce Court to the public was, as we think, rightly unsuccessful. His good intentions could not be carried out without admitting a dan-



THE LOITERERS.—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY W. HEMSLEY, IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

have to do is to hold by the right, and act upon it, without being swayed either by the favours or the threats of more scheming and meddlesome Powers.

In the particular case which has excited these remarks no item is wanting of the worst features of modern French policy. That there is aggrandisement, to begin with, in contemplation we need hardly say. France is putting her hands on two highly important pieces of territory, the possession of which will enable her to control the whole of Italy, and overawe the independence of Switzerland, besides acquiring a new accession of influence in the Mediterranean. Here she disturbs the balance

gerous principle. The mischief of a closed court of justice would be greater than that of an indelicate report by saving sensitive people some annoyance (though why cannot they avoid the objectionable columns in their paper?) at the expense of a fundamental British custom—the publicity of our Courts. Besides, let us know the worst about our state of society and look it honestly in the face. To do so will make it no worse, and may help us to introduce remedies for its disorders. All such legislation as that suggested by Lord John Manners—a gentleman, however, in many ways entitled to respect—is squeamish and superficial, shrinking from the depths of our evils, trifling with the least important features of them. The fundamental mischief is, not that the Divorce Court should afford disgusting narratives, but that the crimes which are made into narratives should be, comparatively, so frequent in the country. How would it benefit the Thames not to drain off its foul matter, but to put a nice white awning across and hide it?

Another social question claims a word. We allude to the St. George's Church riots. Anything more weak than Sir George Cornwall Lewis's way of dealing with these we do not remember. He stations police to let in the rioters, and when a stray vagabond is caught hold of he cannot be brought within the law, though statutes are plentiful! Why not put the police inside to seize the worst ruffians—for instance, those who throw missiles at the clergy? One or two ruffians so seized (and, in case of attempted rescue, a liberal use of the truncheon should be directed), the magistrate has power to punish them severely, or to commit them for trial, when they will be punished. By one Act whipping is provided for offences of this class; and we cannot fancy a punishment more peculiarly fitted—by its homely, undignified, yet severe character—for blackguards in whom sport, rather than fanaticism, is the inspirer of mischief. We have once or twice in these columns had to warn the public against dealing leniently with mobs. Civilisation itself rests on the subordination of the baser elements in a community. It is just because there is so much strange political, social, and religious speculation abroad that we ought to guard against the physical ascendancy of ignorance and brute force. Let our zealots on all sides consider this. A Puseyite may be a fool, or his enemy a bigot; but better Puseyites and bigots in our Church and society than no Church and society at all.

THE LOITERERS.

IDLENESS is a vice—if vice it be—which, however much condemned by men of the world, has always found favour in the eyes of poets and artists. Whether poets and artists indulge much in idleness themselves is a different question. Probably the majority do; but we fancy those few who obtain the highest success work unceasingly at their art, convinced that, though perfection may be approached, it never can be reached. In the meanwhile they enjoy idleness in imagination, and, unlike the writer on morals, look with approbation on a bad course while following a good one. Of course, too, for a certain number of years, during the imaginative period of their existence, both poet and painter must have had long holidays of apparent idleness, or the former would have had no poetic visions, the latter would have seen no ideal pictures. Perhaps it is in memory of this—and also because want of occupation leads to reverie, and reverie to a variety of tender feelings—that artists are so fond of representing scenes of repose, idlers by the wayside, and dreamers and loiterers of all kinds. Mr. Hemsley has sent a couple of "Loiterers" to the Exhibition of the works of British Artists, more familiarly known as the "British Institution," and it is easy to see what the loitering means in this case. Byron's line, "Fond of a little love which I call leisure," is the only explanation that need be given. The boy with the barrow delays wheeling it home because he has met the young girl with the pitcher and has something to say to her; the girl with the pitcher does not go to the well because she has met the boy with the wheelbarrow, and must listen to what he has to say. The boy will get home too late with his load, possibly even will upset it in his anxiety to make up for lost time, and the girl in her agitation may break her pitcher at the edge of the well; but they will both be able to console themselves by thinking of the happy moments they have spent loitering; and we suppose nothing will ever cure young people of loitering as long as they have an opportunity of doing so in pairs.

FALLEN AMONG MOORS.

THE British baque *Zuleika* stranded in the vicinity of Cape Spartel during the night of the 24th ult. On the following morning, when intelligence of the wreck reached Tangier, Mr. James Hay proceeded, by direction of her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires (his brother), to the spot. He found that the ship's crew, eleven in all, had already landed and been kindly treated by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. Early in the afternoon her Majesty's ship *Vulture* which had proceeded to that part of the coast on Mr. Drummond Hay's requisition, arrived, but, owing to the heavy surf, could not communicate with the shore. Shortly afterwards a body of from thirty to forty armed men, who came from the villages situated at some distance from the site of the wreck, made their appearance on some sand-hills not far from where Mr. James Hay and the shipwrecked mariners were standing, and one of them fired a shot, which whizzed past without taking effect. Mr. Hay then ordered a Moorish soldier he had brought with him from Tangier to go forward and arrest the man who had fired. The soldier obeyed by advancing, but was attacked and driven back by the hostile Moors. One of them then came up to and grossly insulted Mr. James Hay, who immediately drew his sword, and, by a blow with the flat side of it, felled him to the ground. Meanwhile several shots were fired at the sailors, but fortunately no one was hit. The Moorish guards were too few to offer any effectual resistance to the attacking party, and the sailors were unarmed. Mr. Hay, therefore, recommended the latter to run for it, making the best of their way along the shore to Mediona, a small village on Cape Spartel, the inhabitants of which are very well disposed towards Christians. All followed the advice but two, who declared they would not leave Mr. Hay for an instant. After some unsuccessful endeavours on the part of the half-dozen Moors by whom Mr. Hay was surrounded to dissuade the assailants from further molesting the Christians, one of the rascals advanced to within fifteen yards of Mr. Hay and levelled his gun at him, whilst he, on his part, covered the Moor with his revolver. Pistol and gun went off at the same moment, and a bullet went through Mr. Hay's cap. Several other shots followed. One of the sleeves of Mr. Hay's coat was ripped up by a bullet and the horse of his soldier killed. Mr. Hay then ordered the two sailors who had remained with him to follow their comrades, and jumping on his horse without either saddle or bridle he galloped after them under a sharp fire from the hostile Moors. In the retreat one of the sailors was fatally wounded, on which Mr. Hay dismounted and placed the poor fellow on his horse. A number of friendly Moors coming up at this time to the assistance of the Christians accompanied them to Mediona, where they passed the night and met with every kindness and hospitality.

GOSSIP IN TURIN.—We read in a Turin letter:—"The Ministerial organ two days ago published an article on the probabilities of war. Cavour's circular, cautiously as it is worded, seems to predict an imminent and dangerous crisis. One of the Turin papers, a moderate and generally well-informed organ, canvasses the probabilities of Piedmont and the Central Italian league having to encounter Austria, Rome, and Naples singlehanded, and is filled with the most dismal forebodings. It estimates that Austria can easily rally forth from Venetia with 150,000 men, Rome can muster 20,000, and Naples 50,000 more, forming an aggregate of 220,000 men. The Piedmont army," continues the writer, "is now, thanks to General La Marmora, reduced to 35,000 men. Say it can be increased to 100,000—40,000 men are required for home service. There remain 60,000 men, which, added to the 40,000 or 50,000 from Central Italy, would bring up the whole force to 100,000 or 110,000, to meet exactly double that number. Austria is provided with excellent arms; ours are wretched, thanks always to General La Marmora. Austria has rifled cannon; we have none, thanks again to La Marmora."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

On Sunday the priests, following the orders of the Archbishop of Paris, read the last encyclical letter of the Pope in all the churches of Paris. The Archbishop has also ordered public prayers to be offered until Easter, in order "that His Holiness may overcome the tribulations and persecutions to which the Church is now exposed."

Sir John Bowring had a prolonged interview with the Emperor on matters of trade on Monday.

The *Moniteur* publishes a report of the Minister of War, announcing that, in conformity with the intentions of the Emperor, he will submit a project of law to the Legislative Body reducing the contingent of the class 1859 from 140,000 to 100,000 men. The same journal contains numerous nominations of Sardinian officers to the Legion of Honour, and announces that 2000 military medals have been granted by the French Government to Piedmontese non-commissioned officers and private soldiers.

ITALY.

SARDINIA.

The King of Sardinia, in acknowledgment of the services of the French army in the cause of Italian independence, has placed at the disposal of the French Government 780 crosses of the order of Santo Maurizio Lazzaro (the military order of Savoy) and 8000 medals for military valour.

Military preparations are being hastened at Turin. Rifled cannon are being cast, the fortresses are being strengthened, and the soldiers undergo incessant training.

The departure of the King for Milan has been fixed for the 15th inst.

The Commander Desambrois having been recalled at his own request, the Chevalier Constantia Negri has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires at Paris.

ROME.

The Pope paid a visit on the 30th ult. to a seminary established at Umiltà to give some young people of South America who are destined for the priesthood an ecclesiastical education. In reply to an address his Holiness touched upon his present trials: others, however, had experienced them, he said, and remained triumphant. But never was there a bitterer trial or the peril more menacing. It was in Italy that the perversion of men's minds was most to be seen; it was in the peninsula that a spirit of revolt against all which is sacred found nourishment and support. The distinction between truth and falsehood was lost; vice became virtue; virtue was called vice. But neither humiliation nor martyrdom, nor captivity, could shake the confidence of the Church nor the firmness of its Head. The animation with which the Pope spoke is said to have made a profound sensation. There is a rumour that Pio Nono has come to the resolution to convocate a Ecumenical Council of the Church to save the Holy See. The last Ecumenical Council took place in 1545. It was the famous Council of Trent.

Fresh orders have been sent by the Emperor to General Goyon to preserve public order; but it is thought doubtful whether, if the people rose against the Papal Government, the French troops could be induced to fire on them. Great agitation prevails in Ancona. The Mazzini party is said to be very active.

It is stated that the Pope has received, and replied to, a letter from Count de Chambord.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Government has suspended the reduction of the army. Baron Vay and Baron Pronay, members of the Protestant deputation from Hungary, have been received by the Emperor at a long audience. The magnates spoke German, and the Emperor replied in Hungarian. He was well aware, he said, that his Magyar people were very readily excited, but they were full of good feeling, and would take it into account the immense difficulties attendant on a period of transition. He would consider some means of arranging all differences.

Meanwhile the Hungarians exhibit great restlessness. At a bal masqué, which took place on Sunday evening in the theatre at Pesth, the national "Rakoczy dance" was demanded. This had been prohibited. The students of the university took no part in the manifestation. Three workmen were arrested; the people insisted on their liberation, and a body of soldiers had to be summoned before tranquillity was restored.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Turkish police force being insufficient, Riza Pacha has proposed to the Sultan the organisation of a "Gendarmerie," to consist of both horse and foot. A committee has been appointed for examining this project, which has been favourably received by the people.

The Turkish Governor of Constantinople has commanded the sale of many old brass cannon, to contribute to the Treasury.

The return of Kiprili Pacha to the office of Grand Vizier is spoken of. The Porte has officially recognised M. Negri as Capoutaya of Prince Couza for the Principality of Moldavia, and as responsible manager of the Chancellerie for Wallachia.

AMERICA.

The Speaker is not yet elected. Mr. Faulkner, the new Minister to France, has been instructed to endeavour and procure certain changes and modifications in the treaty of commerce negotiated between the American Government and France in 1822.

In Missouri the Government recommends prohibitory duties on Northern produce. The House, in that State, has declared that the election of a Republican President will cause a dissolution of the Union. The Louisiana Legislature has resolved that the election of a Republican President would justify a disruption of the Union.

The Government of Peru has liquidated the claims of France, but refuses to acknowledge those of America.

A battle was fought on Dec. 21 between Miramon and the army of Juarez. The action lasted two hours, and resulted in a victory for Miramon. His forces are stated at 3000—that of Juarez at 7000; but of these latter, according to General Acapulco, only 2000 were engaged, the main body having sailed through the treachery of General Cortinas, who detained them above Metamoras, plundering the Texans.

INDIA.

THE WAGHEERS AND WUZEREES.

The Overland Mail from Bombay brings detailed accounts of the decisive battle fought with the Wagheer tribes by Major Honner, whose force consisted chiefly of native troops, about a thousand in number. He scattered and broke up the enemy, and took many hundreds of them prisoners. This revolt of the Wagheers has little or nothing to do with the great Indian revolt, and would, in all likelihood, have occurred whether the Bengal army had mutinied or not.

A similar expedition has been undertaken by General Chamberlain to punish the Wuzerees tribe, to which belong the murderers of Captain Meham. As these wretches were not given up on demand, the General has marched against the tribe with 3000 Punjab Infantry and 14 guns, and, after defeating them in one skirmish on December 22, in which they lost twenty men, was, at the date of our latest letters, on the point of attacking them again.

THE CHINESE EXPEDITION.

Details of the China expedition are given. The contingent will be formed as follows:—

BENGAL.—Europeans: the 3rd (East Kent, or Buffs) Foot; the 6th (Royal 1st Warwickshire) Foot, 1st Battalion; the 8th (King's) Foot, 1st Battalion; the 37th (North Hampshire) Foot; the 60th (King's Royal) Rifle Corps, 1st Battalion; the 67th (South Hampshire) Foot; the 73rd Foot. Cavalry (not detailed). Natives: Five Battalions infantry, including 15th Regiment Punjab infantry (each 800 strong). Irregular cavalry (not detailed).

MADRAS.—Europeans: No. 7 Battery, 14th Brigade Royal Artillery; the 1st Dragoon Guards—200 men and horses; 23rd Company Royal Engineers; A and K Companies Sappers and Miners; the 44th (East Essex) Foot; the 60th (Berkshire) Foot. Natives: A company 5th Battalion Artillery (Goindauze); 1st Supplemental Company (Goindauze).

BOMBAY.—Europeans: the 31st (Huntingdonshire) Foot; the 56th (West Essex) Foot. Natives: 3rd Regiment N.I. (1000 strong); 5th Regiment N.I. (ditto).

The *Homeward Mail* says:—"To secure uniformity of ammunition, it is ordered that the native force shall be armed with the smooth-bore musket, such as is used by the Indian regiments now serving in China; and corps now armed with rifles are to have them exchanged before embarkation for the old Brown Bess—a merciful weapon, which is warranted never to hit anything it is aimed at."

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S TOUR.

The official tour of the Governor-General terminated at Meerut, and he now goes to Simla to recruit his health. His Lordship held a durbar at Meerut, for the reception of the Maharajah of Punnah, and other chiefs of the north-western provinces. His Lordship on this occasion was accompanied by the Right Hon. J. Wilson. The Maharajah of Punnah received a khilut of 20,000 rupees, and the honour of a hereditary salute of eleven guns, his Excellency remarking that he was glad of the opportunity of thanking the Maharajah publicly for saving the lives of Christian subjects of the Queen, and giving assistance to her Majesty's troops under Brigadier Wheeler. After the durbar his Excellency, accompanied by his Staff, &c., paid a return visit to the Maharajah of Punnah, where they were sumptuously entertained, receiving a Royal salute both on arrival and departure.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

We have received intelligence from Shanghai to the effect that the Chinese are strongly fortifying Peking and the entrance to the Peiho. 100,000 Tartar troops have been centred near the Peiho. The British are energetically preparing for the campaign.

The trade with Japan has been stopped by the excessive demands of the Europeans for Japanese gold in exchange for dollars, and by the insults offered to the Japanese. The British Consul has issued a notification blaming the conduct of the Europeans.

AUSTRALIA.

The new Victoria Cabinet, under Mr. Nicholson, who recently visited England, has been returned on presenting themselves for re-election. Parliament had met at Melbourne, and the Ministers had explained their policy. Mr. Nicholson is reported as possessing the confidence of the country.

For some months past there have been no great movements among the population on the several gold-fields. Systematic mining is more extensively carried on, and where that is the case work varies little summer or winter, and hired labour is in increased demand. With this increased demand for men on the old gold-fields, and greater scope on the newly-discovered and less thoroughly worked fields yet available under the old system, and without any addition to the number of men so employed, the prospects of the miner have decidedly improved. The tone of the labour market has also improved, and useful men of all kinds are at a premium.

The *Sydney Morning Herald*, of the 13th of December, says:—"The Parliament has reassembled, and Queensland has been called into existence as a distinct colony, notwithstanding that both Houses of Parliament have voted against the measure. Sir Charles Nicholson has been elected President of the Legislative Council of the new colony."

ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

A few days ago Lord Cowley communicated to the French Government a project of the English Cabinet for the definitive settlement of the Italian question. This project contains the following points:—The principle of non-intervention to be applied in an absolute sense. Venetia to remain apart from all negotiations concerning new territorial arrangements, and to continue under the Austrian rule. The inhabitants of Central Italy to be again invited to vote on their own Constitution. Should they pronounce themselves for annexation with Sardinia, the latter Power to be authorised to accomplish their wishes. Sardinia to abstain from every measure destined to favour the annexation until the new vote of the Italian States has taken place. France to withdraw her troops from Rome and from the other parts of Italy.

The French Government replied that it could not accept these propositions without consulting Austria, bound as she is to that State by the Treaty of Zurich. We now learn that the Austrian Government has received the proposition with great deference, but that she never will accede to the annexation of Central Italy to Sardinia.

A telegram from Berlin says:—"The English Government, in making to Austria, with the consent of France, the proposal for the settlement of the Italian question announced in yesterday's message, stated that, in exchange for the points to be agreed to by Austria, it would be understood that Sardinia would respect the Austrian dominion in Venetia. Austria, in her reply already mentioned, said that she herself would know how to protect Venetia."

The Austrians are constructing four new forts round Peschiera, where a large hospital has been established. Sixty-four rifled cannon of large calibre have arrived at Mantua, and have been placed in the fortresses of the Quadrilateral. Heavy rifled bronze cannon have been substituted for the cast cannon.

A proclamation of the Governor of Venice announces that whoever henceforward renders himself guilty of offences against public order shall be tried, not by the civil, but by the military, tribunals. The state of the whole province is becoming worse from day to day.

FRANCE AND SAVOY.

The agitation for the annexation of Savoy and Nice is kept up by the Paris journals, and the *Patrie*, which seems to have become the special instrument for ventilating this matter, has gone the length of asserting that the local Government in Savoy is putting down the almost unanimous wish of the inhabitants, who demand the annexation to France. "It is time the authorities of Turin should learn," says the *Patrie*, "that they cannot have two weights and two balances, that the people of Savoy and Nice have the same right to dispose of themselves as the people of the Duchies. The sympathies of Savoy for France are a century old, and the Government which seeks to repress them ought to desist from any such effort, and to leave them to dispose of themselves." And M. Grandguillot says in the *Constitutionnel*, "What Savoy wishes, what France desires, does not seem doubtful; what the Governments would like to do, and may do, remains up to the present hour covered with the veil of diplomacy."

Meanwhile the *Gazette de Nice* is "authorised and requested to give the most formal and positive denial to the statement that a treaty had been signed on the 27th of January for the cession of Savoy and Nice to France. That statement is false. We have the highest authority for publishing this denial."

The *Opinion* of Turin says:—"In case Sardinia should obtain sufficient compensation and strategic positions, and should the annexation of Savoy to France then be asked for, it might be granted. But it is very difficult for Nice to become French. Nice protests against it by her acts; her interests are also contrary to it. Therefore these two distinct questions must not be mixed together."

A telegram from Nice says that at the theatre on Monday night the national song was repeated three times, and was received with shouts of "The King for ever!" "Italy for ever!" "Nice, Italian!" According to the Paris papers this report is dreadfully exaggerated. They say that "four hundred and fifty spectators, consisting only of soldiers and Italian functionaries, shouted a great deal. Half the audience remained silent, and the boxes were empty."

THE POPE'S LETTER TO THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

THE *Independence Belge* of Tuesday publishes the letter addressed by Pope Pius to the Emperor Napoleon in answer to the advice tendered him by his Majesty. We subjoin a translation:—

"Sire,—I have received the letter which your Majesty has had the goodness to write to me, and I reply to it without evasion and with an open heart. In commencing, I do not hide from myself the difficult position of your Majesty; I see it in all its gravity. Your Majesty could leave this position by some decisive measure which perhaps excites your repugnance, and it is precisely because you find yourself in this position that you advise me again for the peace of Europe to cede the insurgent provinces, while assuring me that the Powers will guarantee to the Pope those which remain to him.

"A project of this nature presents insurmountable difficulties, and to become convinced of it it is sufficient to reflect upon my situation, my sacred character, and the rights of the Holy See—rights which are not those of a dynasty, but of all Catholics. The difficulties are insurmountable, because I cannot cede that which does not belong to me, and because I see but too clearly that the victory which would be given to the revolutionists of the legations would serve as a pretext and encouragement to the native and foreign revolutionists of the other provinces to play the same game, seeing the success of the first; and when I say revolutionists, I speak of the least considerable and the most audacious part of the populations.

"The Powers you say will guarantee the rest; but in the grave and extraordinary cases which are to be foreseen, and considering the numerous aids which the inhabitants receive from without, will it be possible for the Powers to use their force in an efficacious manner? If that is not so, your Majesty will be persuaded with me that the usurpers of others' goods, and the revolutionists, are invincible when they are only met by means of reasoning.

"However that may be, I am compelled to declare openly that I cannot cede the Legations without violating the solemn oaths which bind me without producing a disaster and a shock in the other provinces, without bringing wrong and shame upon all Catholics, without weakening the rights, not only of the Sovereigns of Italy, unjustly despoiled of their domains, but of the Sovereigns of the whole Christian world, who cannot see the destruction of certain principles with indifference.

"Your Majesty makes the repose of Europe to depend upon the cession by the Pope of the Legations, which for fifty years have caused so much embarrassment to the Pontifical Government. But, as I promised in the beginning of this letter to speak openly, let me be permitted to return the argument. Who can count the revolutions which have occurred in France during the last sixty-six years? But, at the same time who will dare to say to the great French nation that, for the repose of Europe, it is necessary to restrain the limits of the empire? The argument proves too much; accordingly, permit me to reject it. And, moreover, your Majesty is not ignorant by what persons, with what funds, with what support the late attempts at Bologna, Ravenna, and other cities, have been made. Almost the entire population remained terror-stricken at the movement, which no one expected, and which they were not disposed to follow. But your Majesty observes that, if I had accepted the project expressed in the letter which you sent me through M. Meneval, the insurgent provinces would be now under my authority. To tell the truth, this letter was opposed to that with which you honoured me before the commencement of the Italian campaign, and in which you gave me consoling assurances without causing me any trouble. However, the letter to which you allude proposed to me in its first part a project as inadmissible as the present; and as to the second part I believe I have adopted it, as the documents consigned to the hands of your Ambassador at Rome will show.

"I see also this phrase of your Majesty, that if I had accepted this project I should have preserved my authority over those provinces—an expression which seems to denote that at the point at which we have arrived they are lost to me for ever. Sire, I pray you, in the name of the Church, and also in your own interest, so to act that my apprehension be not justified. Certain memoirs, called secret, tell me that the Emperor Napoleon I. has left to his family warnings worthy of a Christian philosopher who in adversity found resources and alleviation in religion alone. It is certain that we shall all shortly appear before the Supreme tribunal to render a strict account of all our deeds, our words, and our thoughts. Endeavour then to appear before this great tribunal of God in such a way as to experience the effects of His pity, and not those of His justice. I speak thus to you in my character of father, which gives me the right to tell the whole truth to my sons, however elevated their positions in the world. For the rest I thank you for your friendly expressions in my regard, and for the assurance you give me that you wish to continue to me the solicitude which you say you have had for me up to the present time.

"It only remains to me to pray God to pour upon you, upon the Empress, and upon the young Imperial Prince the abundance of His blessings.

"At the Vatican, January 8, 1860."

THE HISTORY OF SAVOY.

In order to understand the bearings of the Savoy question in 1860 a retrospective glance at the history of that territory will be found useful.

Up to the sixteenth century the possessions of the house of Savoy included the Lower Valais, the Pays du Vaud, part of the present cantons of Freiburg and Geneva, and the Pays de Gex. After many changes the Valais, Vaud, Freiburg, and Geneva became permanently Swiss (a different confederation, of course, from the present; Valais was in union with the seven Catholic cantons, and Geneva more especially with Berne and Zurich); in 1601 the Pays de Gex became French by the Treaty of Lyons, and in 1603 the Treaty of St. Julien fixed a boundary of four hours (*stunden*) about Geneva, within which Savoy was to introduce no troops and to erect no fortresses. This state of things lasted until the French Revolution, which found Savoy bounded on the north by the Lake of Geneva, between Hermance and St. Ginguolph, east by the Valais, and west by the Genevese territory and the Rhone.

In 1792 France annexed Savoy; in 1798, Geneva; and in 1802 the Valais; and they formed integral parts of the French dominions during the Republic and the first Empire.

In 1814, by the Treaty of Paris, Geneva was united to the Swiss Confederation with the same boundaries as before French annexation; Upper Savoy (Chablais, Faucigny, &c.) was restored to Sardinia, while Lower Savoy was retained by France.

In 1815, at the Congress of Vienna, it was laid down as a principle by the great Powers that the absolute neutrality of the Swiss Republic was a European necessity, and that in that view it was important to give her a strong natural boundary. In fact, the question of Savoy is a question of physical geography.

It was represented by the Genevese Commissioners that the arrangements under the first Treaty of Paris did not gain these ends; that the portion of Savoy (Chablais and Faucigny) restored to Sardinia was isolated, and, in the event of hostilities, incapable of defence by that Power; and that, while thus of doubtful value to Sardinia, Switzerland was deprived of a territory of the highest strategic importance, including the Route du Simplon, of which Geneva is the key. They therefore proposed that, subject to the sovereignty of Sardinia, Chablais and Faucigny should be included in the neutrality of Switzerland, and accompanied the details necessary to carry out this plan by the suggestion that Sardinia should engage never to cede nor exchange these possessions.

This proposal to the Congress drew from the Sardinian Envoy a reply favourable to the proposition for neutrality, but asking for Sardinia the cession of that portion of Savoy that had been left under French rule.

Such was the position of affairs when the landing of Napoleon I. from Elba checked the existing negotiations, caused a renewal of the alliance of the great Powers, to which Switzerland gave her adherence, with

a force of 40,000 men, and opened the short campaign terminated by the second Peace of Paris. The Swiss and Sardinian questions were again taken up, and by a treaty signed on November 20, 1815, by Austria, France, Great Britain, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, Sweden, and Spain, it was agreed that the portion of Savoy which at the first Peace of Paris had been retained by France should be restored to Sardinia, and the Article of March 29, 1815, of the Congress of Vienna, by which, "in the event of war," those portions of Sardinian Savoy called Chablais and Faucigny, were declared to participate in the neutrality of Switzerland, was confirmed.

In order to carry out these views Switzerland and Sardinia made the Treaty of Turin on the 16th of March, 1816, by which the necessary details for placing Chablais and Faucigny under Swiss military occupation in the eventuality of war, for withdrawing the Sardinian troops, and for settling a well-defined boundary to the neutral portion of the territory, were agreed on.

By the 23rd article of this treaty it is stipulated that, for the sake of good feeling, it shall not be lawful for Switzerland to cede or alienate Valais, nor for the house of Savoy to cede or alienate Chablais, Faucigny, or Genevois (the province or department of Savoy so called) to any third Power.

On the 14th of March, 1859, the Swiss Confederation, in view of the probable outbreak of hostilities between France, Sardinia, and Austria, addressed a circular note to the signers of the treaties of 1815, and also to the adjacent States of Baden, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Sardinia, in which, as a neutral and independent State, and in accordance with those treaties, they defined the position which, in the event of a declaration of war, they intended to assume.

All the Powers, in responding to this circular, acknowledged its propriety and legality. No reclamation was made, and Sardinia declared her readiness to enter at once on the negotiations necessary for the eventual occupation by Switzerland of neutral Savoy. These negotiations are yet pending.

The above may be taken as an accurate, although, of course, a condensed, statement of the relative positions which the various parties—the great Powers of Europe, France, Sardinia, and Switzerland—occupy at the present time.

THE WAR IN MOROCCO.

Tetuan was taken by the Spaniards after a battle which was fought on the 4th. A telegram from Madrid says:—"Eight hundred large tents, forming the five encampments of the enemy, the artillery, camels, and all other equipage of the Moorish army, have been taken. The brothers of the Emperor took to flight, and a summons having been transmitted to the enemy to surrender Tetuan within twenty-four hours, a deputation from the city came into the Spanish camp to beg for mercy, as the Mussulmans had commenced pillage and slaughter in the town. The division of General Rios entered the place without any opposition, and was received with manifestations of joy."

Great rejoicings at this victory have been made in Madrid. The *Official Gazette* publishes a decree nominating Marshal O'Donnell Duke of Tetuan, and raising him to the rank of Grande of Spain. The members of the Chamber of Deputies have presented their congratulations to the Queen. The ground where the victory was obtained over the Moors has been given by the Queen to the Duke of Tetuan.

General Echague has entered the valley of Anghera, where he destroyed 200 cottages, and took one cannon, a number of cattle, and munitions of war.

THE CIRCASSIAN EXODUS.

THE editor of the *Levant Herald*, writing to the *Times* from Constantinople, gives the following account of the Circassian exodus:—

For months past a tide of immigration has set in from the banks of the Kouban and other parts of Circassia into Turkey. For probably excellent reasons the Russian Government, it is said, has given the Mussulman population of those parts a choice of removal to Siberia or emigration hither. They have chosen the latter, and, since the middle of last year, have consequently been arriving in almost weekly detachments. Kertch is their general port of departure, and the transport arrangements for the whole are there managed by one of their own chiefs, aided by a Maltese broker, who is said to have already grown rich on the gains of the enterprise. The emigrants pay, I believe, four dollars a head for the passage to Constantinople, and the Maltese makes the best bargain he can within that limit with the masters of every sort of craft for the conveyance of his living cargoes hither. The result is that the vessels are crammed to suffocation with the exiles, who endure on the voyage to the Bosphorus all the horrors of another "middle passage." During the past stormy season in the Black Sea above a dozen wrecks of these emigrant vessels occurred, hurrying many hundreds of these miserable creatures to death. Of those who made good the passage thousands landed in every stage of disease and physical suffering, without a dollar to supply even their most immediate wants, and dependent entirely on the charity of the Government. To do the Porte justice, this was neither laggingly nor stingily given. As the immigrants arrived they were at once housed in the Government khans in Stambul, and a daily ration of two oaks of bread and three pisters in money allotted to each male adult, while measures were also taken to forward parties of them to free plots of land granted to them in the interior. Considering the Porte's financial straits, nobody will deny that this is generous and hospitable in the extreme; but, liberal as has been the provision thus made, it will be readily seen how inadequate it is to the pressing wants of those relieved. While the ration mentioned would be ample for an individual, it is utterly insufficient for a family, and the result is absolute starvation and disease engendered by it at this moment among the 18,000 or 20,000 of these unhappy strangers now packed together in the damp khans of Scutari and Stambul. Move where you will through the streets of either, gaunt visions of famishing men, women, and children meet you at every turn, appealing to you in their mute passion of bitter hunger and freezing cold with a harrowing energy no British onlooker, at all events, can resist. Inside the khans the spectacle is still worse. On the damp ground floors scores of sufferers, in every stage of want-induced disease—most of them women—lie huddled together, some with no bedding whatever, and the best off with but little; the whole presenting a picture of concentrated human wretchedness to which even "London over the Borders" can offer no parallel.

Such, shortly told, is the condition of these unhappy people. The private charity of the native society of Stambul, headed by the Grand Vizier and several of the Ministers, has already contributed a considerable sum for their relief; but personal observation enables me to testify that, whether, as I believe, it be owing to the maladministration of the funds so raised, or to the scantiness of the funds themselves, the remedy thus applied is but as a drop in a bucket to the mass of destitution still untouched.

MAZZINI ON ITALY. In a letter to Mr. John McAdam, of Glasgow, M. Mazzini urges the importance of "nationalising the Italian movement," and says:—"Explain to your countrymen that our aim is unity; that there is the root of the question; that Italy will never be tranquil, Europe never be at peace, while that supreme aim of ours is not reached. Take up your Government's scheme of non-interference from foreign force in our internal affairs. But take it up in a sincere, complete, warning way, so as to proclaim that there must be identity between Ministerial speeches and acts. I speak advisedly. While Lord Palmerston declares loudly for the non-interference principle he is interfering, through Sir James Hudson, against our embodying into a military effective organisation under Garibaldi our national guards. Urge for support being given to the claimed annexation of the dukedoms of Tuscany, of the Legations, to Piedmont. Bonapartism is conceding the annexation of the dukedoms, doubtful about the Legations, negative about Tuscany. And, above all, urge, insist, for the withdrawal of the French troops from Italy, but especially from Rome. What is the talking about non-interference while 20,000 French soldiers are forbidding Rome manifesting her verdict about Papal rule? The withdrawal, as soon as the Pope's security would be guaranteed, was promised since 1849. It was promised again in 1856, on condition that the Austrian troops would withdraw from the Roman provinces. It is asked for by the Pope; it is by the Italian people; and, since the war for independence, it is a logical deduction, as, since the peace of Villafranca with Austria, it is an elementary political duty. Ask for it; petition, speak, resolve in every meeting for it. Rome free is Italy one; and the movement now going on amongst your Catholic population ought to stir up your Protestant believers to something like a counter-demonstration."

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH AMERICA.—An overland route for telegraphic communication with America has been proposed in France, making use of the existing lines from London to Dresden, and thence entering the Russian empire and passing through Moscow and Kasaan. Then crossing the Ural Mountains to Yakoutsk and on to the Behring Strait, crossing this, and passing through Russian America to Canada and the United States.

IRELAND.

MURDER IN COUNTY MAYO.—Alexander Harrison, a ploughman in the employment of Lord Plunket, at Tourmakedy, county Mayo, was murdered on the night of the 1st. He was found dead by his wife at midnight his breast being riddled by slugs. He was an inoffensive man, the only ground of complaint against him being that a short time ago he prosecuted to conviction a poacher on Lord Plunket's estate. Tourmakedy or Partry has for more than a year been in a very disturbed state, but, though there have been many outrages, this is the first murder. Four men have been already arrested on suspicion.

AID FOR THE POPE.—Dr. Cullen has issued a decree directing that a "collection" shall be made in the Roman Catholic churches on the first Sunday in Lent. This new "rent" is to be poured into the Treasury of the Pope. But the Irish doctors differ about it. Dr. McHale is of opinion that Dr. Cullen ought not to have announced it upon his own authority. "No officiating clergyman is permitted to make any extraordinary collections in his own church, on any account, without asking and obtaining the sanction of the ordinary." Dr. Cullen did not do this, and Dr. McHale says that "no unauthorised interference is needed to instruct the clergy and people in their duty to the Pope." Already Ireland has contributed £207 to the Papal Treasury. At the head of the list of subscribers stands the name of Dr. Cullen, who comes down with £100, or nearly the half of the whole amount.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.—Mr. Cardwell's reply to the memorial of the Irish Roman Catholic Bishops, asking for changes in the fundamental principles of the system of national education in Ireland, has been published, together with the memorial, as a Parliamentary paper. After entering separately into the complaints of the prelates, and clearly expounding the principles on which the system rests, Mr. Cardwell says:—"While, therefore, I convey to you, on the part of her Majesty's Government, the declaration of their firm adherence to a system of education open equally at the hour set apart for secular instruction to every denomination of Christians, I declare to you with equal plainness their desire to give full effect to that other principle of the system which provides for separate religious teaching, and respects, in the case of every child, the just authority of the parent. Consistently with these principles, they are perfectly ready to examine, and, if need be, to remove, the ground of any complaint which the heads of any of the Churches may prefer against the operation of any of the present rules, or of any part of the present practice."

THE PROVINCES.

THE MURDER AT LIVERPOOL.—The inquest on the body of a seaman who was found some days since with his throat cut near Canada Dock, Liverpool, was held on Tuesday. Evidence was given which went to show that the murdered man was a steward on board a vessel lying in Huskisson Dock, and that he had drawn his wages, amounting to about £30, on the night before he was discovered. Suspicions have fallen on a man who enlisted on Wednesday in the Lancashire Artillery.

WIFE MURDER AND SUICIDE.—A man named Fawson, a butcher, lived at Huddfield, a low district of Coventry. He and his wife had quarrelled and separated but they had recently become reunited. The two appear to have retired to bed about their usual hour on Monday night. Nothing was heard of them in the morning, and their shop remained closed. Ten o'clock passed, and the house still remaining closed, it was resolved to force an entrance. This was done, and a terrible spectacle presented itself. Fawson lay "doubled up" at the foot of the bed, his throat cut, stabbed in his breast, and his brains scattered about. It was evident that in the heat of passion he had cut and stabbed himself in ineffectual efforts to destroy life, and then, being unable to dispatch himself so quickly as he wished with a knife, he went down stairs and procured a gun, with which he returned and shot himself through the head. On the bed lay the unfortunate woman, his wife, with her throat cut. Both were quite dead.

ESCAPE OF CONVICTS FROM A RAILWAY TRAIN.—Attached to the mail train which left Reading at 7.30 on Saturday evening was a carriage containing a number of convicts. Two of these convicts, unnoticed by the officers in charge, to remove their irons, and simultaneously both sprang from the carriage, the train going at full speed. Upon the arrival of the train at Slough the wheels and sides of the carriage were examined; but no trace of blood could be found, and it was then presumed that they had escaped unhurt. Information was given to the police authorities, telegraph messages were forwarded to the different county constabulary stations, and on Sunday evening the fugitives were arrested in the High-street, Reading. The account they gave of themselves was, that on escaping from the train they made for a wood, where they lay concealed till nightfall. They then strolled out, and on arriving at a cottage entered it, and stole the clothes in which they were found disguised. One of them wore a brown slop frock; underneath this was a woman's old cloak and a shirt, and when the latter was pulled off the Dartmoor prison suit appeared. The other man had only a smockfrock over his prison dress.

A LIGHTHOUSE IN DANGER.—The *Cornish Telegraph* reports that during a violent gale on Monday, the 30th ult., fourteen or fifteen panes of plate-glass (five-eighths thick) in the Bishop Rock Lighthouse were broken, the large brass ladder outside, and the fog-bell, suspended to the gun-metal gallery round the lantern, from 120 to 130 feet above the sea, being carried away. This bell weighed four cwt., and could be heard a mile off in calm weather. The lighthouse was flooded, and shook so much that earthenware fell from the cupboards. Boats went from St. Mary's, but to land was impracticable. Letters, however, were passed off by ropes. The damage is roughly calculated at £1000.

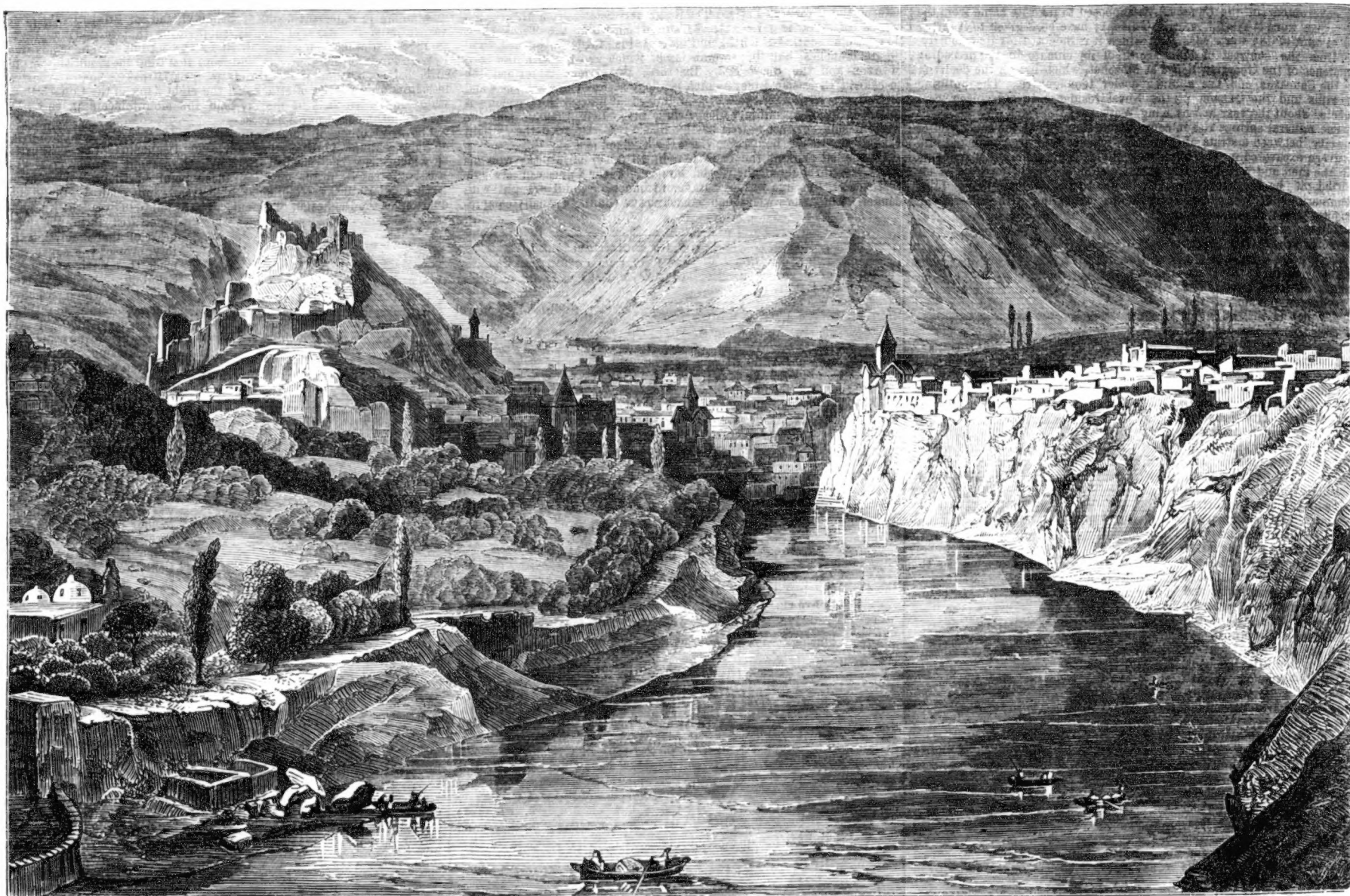
CRIME AND THE CONFESSORIAL.—At Gateshead, on Tuesday, a pitman named Hay was charged with having, in company with others not yet in custody, stolen a watch and some money on the highway. The watch was in the possession of Father Kelly, the Roman Catholic priest of the village. A police inspector proceeded to the house of the rev. father and got the watch from him; but his endeavours to obtain from him the name and whereabouts of the individual by whom it had been left in his custody were vain. Warned of the consequences, he persisted in secrecy, giving the officer to understand that he was perfectly fearless of results: he had received the watch in accordance with a solemn rite of the Church, which he could not violate. The bench, in very strong terms, commented on the obstinacy displayed by the rev. gentleman, and committed the prisoner for trial.

A MYSTERIOUS CONSIGNMENT.—Much excitement has been occasioned at Carlisle by the discovery of a child's body under very singular circumstances. About twelve months since a long deal box was left at the Bush Hotel, in that city, by one of the porters of the Caledonian Railway Company. No one claimed it, and at last it was opened. Inside was found the body of a child. Medical gentlemen were called in and made a most mortem examination; which the decay of the body rendered very difficult. The presumption, however, was that it is the body of a female, three or four years of age. The general appearance led to the conclusion that the remains were those of a well-formed, stout, active child. It has been hinted, from the position of the body, that it may have been put into the box whilst still alive; but this is mere surmise.

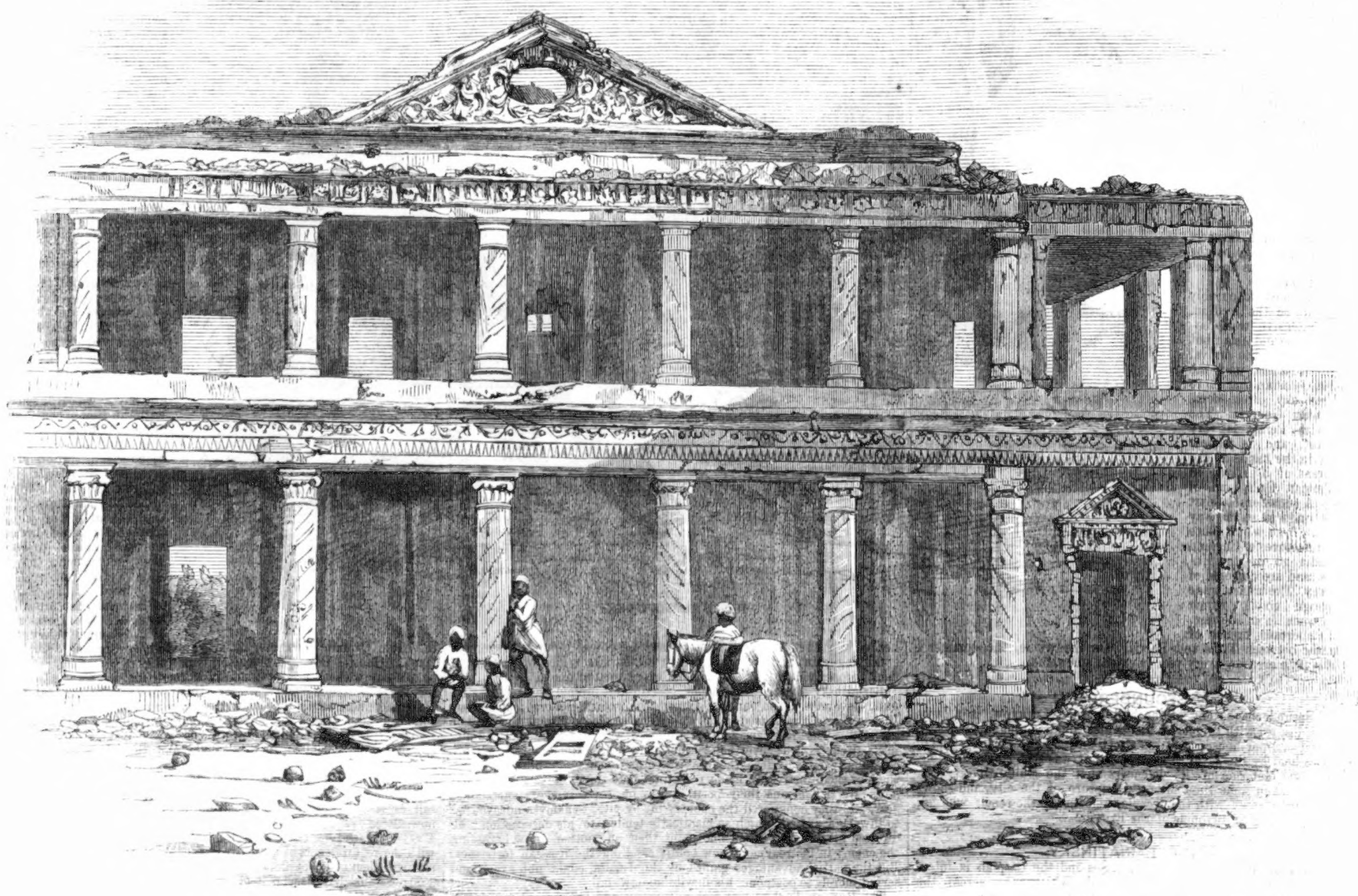
CAST-IRON CANNON WITH WROUGHT-IRON HOOPS.—Captain Blakely, the inventor of these guns, writes to the *Times* to defend the principles on which they are constructed:—"So early as 1855 I made a 9-pounder of the same weight and shape as the service cast-iron gun, and the Ordnance Select Committee had it tried at Shoeburyness against one of the latter and also a brass service gun. The three guns were fired as follows:—Two rounds with 8lb. of powder and 2 shot, 86 rounds with 3lb. of powder and 1 shot, 16 rounds with 4lb. of powder and 1 shot, 5 rounds with 5lb. of powder and 1 shot, 5 rounds with 5lb. of powder and 2 shot. So far all four remained serviceable. The charge was increased to 6lb. of powder and 2 shot, with which the service cast-iron gun burst at the 110th round; the service brass gun became unserviceable after 174 rounds; but my gun was so sound after 318 rounds that the charge was increased by one shot at a time till the gun was loaded to the muzzle, in which state it was fired 158 times before it burst." The cause of the great strength of the gun Captain Blakely explains to be that the hoops are made so small that they must be heated considerably before they can be passed to their places. When cool they contract, compress the inner cast iron, and remain permanently strained themselves. In this state of tension they must do their work in resisting a force tending to burst the gun, which the removed outer portions of the thick cube could not do.

A FEMALE PEDESTRIAN.—The *Ballarat Times* states that a Miss Beverley Howard has just walked 1250 miles in 1000 consecutive hours. "Those who had seen the almost utterly helpless state to which the task of walking 1000 miles in 1000 hours rendered Allen Mackean here, at Ballarat, expected to see Miss Beverley Howard creep or crawl, rather than walk, her last rounds; but it was not so. She was neither lame, nor halt, nor slow, but walked her last 1½ mile in 21 min. 45 sec., at almost a regular pace, with her body suitably thrown forward, but not bent, with a free motion of both hands and feet, and with no perceptible heaviness of step. And to prove that the task had not exhausted her strength she walked three round beyond the forty-five turns which made up the 1½ mile."

THE BUILDERS' STRIKE.—At a general meeting of the Central Association of Master Builders held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday it was unanimously resolved that the objects contemplated by the declaration having now been accomplished, its further formal administration is unnecessary; that the 'suggestions of Lord St. Leonards' be adopted in substitution for the declaration and that it be remitted to the executive committee to take the steps necessary for giving effect to this resolution."



VIEW OF TIFLIS.



THE SECUNDER-BAGH.

TIFLIS.

TIFLIS, the capital of the province of Georgia, and the Russian seat of government in the Caucasus, is supposed to take its name from the Georgian word "Tibili," warm. This may have been given to it either on account of the warm springs to which it is indebted for its celebrity, or from the contrast of the warmth of its climate to the preceding residence of the Georgian Kings at Mozchet, which lies on the declivity of the Caucasus, and has a much cooler temperature. The building of Tiflis and the transfer of the Royal residence to this place were effected about the year 455 by King Watkang I.

The mineral springs rise in considerable numbers at the south end of the city, between a strata of limestone, whence they are conducted into a cavern excavated in the solid rock, divided into different apartments for the men and women. Into this cavern not a ray of daylight is admitted, it being merely rescued from total darkness by the faint glimmerings of a few twinkling lamps struggling with the vapour arising from the water. The town is built on both sides of the River Kur, which flows through a valley confined by two ranges of lofty mountains. The larger portion of the city, which is on the right or west bank, contains the houses of the wealthiest inhabitants, the Greek bazaar, the residence of the military governor, and of the Commander-in-Chief. This is the city properly so called, which is again divided into two parts, the old and new town. The limits of the old town are distinctly marked by the ruins of the ancient fortifications. The new town extends to the north and west beyond these walls, and is distinguished from the old town by its new buildings in the European style, and broader streets. The greater part of it is called by the Georgians "Goretuban"—that is, the street out of the city. On the left bank is the extensive suburb Awlabar, a large caravansary, the barracks, a long row of houses, inhabited by colonists from Southern Germany, and the fortress or citadel, built by the Turks in 1576. Towards the south the town leans against the chain of hills running from the south-west, on the summit of which are extensive ruins of a very ancient fortress. The houses in Tiflis are ill built, and the streets so narrow that only one carriage can pass through the widest, and in the smaller thoroughfares there is scarcely room for a horseman. Great improvements, however, have been and are being made, and its inhabitants are every day becoming more and more familiar with all the comforts, and even the luxuries, of European life.

The situation of Tiflis would certainly make it one of the most delightful spots in the world if the mountains between which it lies were not totally destitute of trees. They now only reflect the rays of the sun from the southern slope of the Caucasus, and thus produce in the valleys an oppressive heat, which often strikes like the glow of a furnace, and may, perhaps, be the cause of the bilious diseases prevalent here.

Tiflis is most favourably situated to be the medium of an extensive trade between Europe and Asia; but it is only since the arrival of the Russians and the peace of Gulistan that there has been any direct commerce with Georgia. The trade with Persia is very important, and is almost entirely in the hands of the Armenians of Bushire, on the Persian Gulf, and of Tiflis. A considerable part of this trade takes the way of Basrah, from which place the manufactures of England and India go up the Euphrates, and are disposed of in Turkey. The transit trade of foreign goods, which chiefly come from Leipsic, is an important branch of the traffic between Tiflis and Persia. On the whole, the commerce of Tiflis is in creasing every year in extent and value.

THE SECUNDERBAGH.

THE Secunderbagh, one of the buildings of Lucknow, is a large square inclosure, with turrets at the angles and a garden inside, with kiosks and summer-houses. At the attack on Lucknow this was one of the places held by the revolted sepoys, but it was soon stormed by our soldiers, and not one of its defenders left the walls alive. Our Sketch was taken some time after the capture of the city, and shows the courtyard strewn with the decaying remains of the rebels who fell beneath the avenging bayonets of the British.

PRINCE BARIATINSKY.

THE neck of land between the Black Sea and the Caspian is intersected by a great Russian military road, which runs across the Caucasian mountains from Stavropol to Tiflis, thus forming a connecting line between Europe and Asia. On the eastern side of this road

risers the River Terek, the course of which is, first, from south to north; then, turning eastward, falls into the Caspian Sea. On the western side of the great military road, but further distant from it, are the sources of another river, the Kuban, which, like the Terek, first flows from south to north, but afterwards turns westward, and finally branches out in several arms which unite with the Sea of Azoff and the Black Sea. By these two rivers is formed the so-called "Caucasian Line," which is a long series of Cossack posts and fortresses. The eastern side of this line—that nearest the Caspian—is called, in Russian military despatches, the "Left Flank," and the western side—or that nearest to the Black Sea—is called the "Right Flank."

On the left flank of the Caucasian line Prince Bariatinsky won his spurs; for throughout the whole duration of the Caucasian struggle that side of the line was of paramount importance and fraught with danger. The tribes who inhabit that tract of country (usually compre-

mountain strongholds without incurring a useless sacrifice of his forces. The restoration of peace, by securing reinforcements to the Russian army, sealed the doom of Schamyl, and for Prince Bariatinsky was reserved the task of finally subjugating that formidable chief. In 1858 Bariatinsky was appointed to the supreme command of the Russian forces in the Caucasus, and from that time the mountain hordes sustained a succession of signal defeats. Bariatinsky's tactics consisted in maintaining a series of attacks on the right flank of the Cossack line, whilst on the left flank he merely held the mountaineers in check by the establishment of new fortresses.

The great event of the campaign of 1857 was the total conquest of Sulatavia, the north-eastern angle of Daghestan, the possession of which place had enabled Schamyl to prevent a junction of the Russian forces. On the most advanced point of the newly-acquired territory Bariatinsky established a fortress, and made it the headquarters of the Daghestan regiment. In the following year the Russians

penetrated into the very heart of the enemy's territory, crossed the Argan, and made themselves masters of Schubug. Several battles ensued, in which Schamyl suffered severely, and it now became evident that the tribes were losing confidence in the Imaum, for they surrendered in vast numbers to the Russians.

The campaign of 1859, which was conducted by Bariatinsky in person, brought the conflict to a decisive issue. Schamyl had retired to Weden, and against that point the Prince now directed all his force. That the Imaum was conscious of his inability to offer any effective resistance was evident, for he relinquished active operations, and seemed to be calmly observing the Russian preparations for attack. Weden was taken on the 13th (25th) of April, 1859, and only a small horde of fanatics offered any serious resistance to the besiegers. Schamyl fled to Gunib, a village situated on a level height, and defended by steep precipices. There he believed himself to be unassailable; but a successful attack of the Russians proved that he had formed an erroneous idea of the security of his position, and he had no alternative but to surrender to the enemy against whom he had maintained an obstinate resistance during the space of twenty years.

This crowning success of Prince Bariatinsky has multiplied his growing honours tenfold. On his return to Russia to relate in person his achievements to the Emperor he was met by an Imperial aide-de-camp, who brought him a Field-Marshal's bâton. His Sovereign, on his arrival in St. Petersburg, saluted him as his military superior before all the troops. The last news from Russia tells us that the Prince is being fêted on all sides, and that a grand banquet had just been given to him in the Winter Palace, at which the Emperor proposed the toast of "Field-Marshal Prince Bariatinsky and the Army of the Caucasus."

THE GREAT SHIP COMPANY.

THE report of this company was read before the shareholders on Tuesday. It states that the committee have arrived at the conclusion that the interests of the company require that they should be intrusted to an entirely new board, selected with the view of conciliating antagonistic elements. The committee strongly recommend the alteration of the articles of association, so as to abolish the office of managing directors; and they concur in the opinion that the number of directors should be limited to seven. They recommend that the seats in the direction should be offered to the Marquis of Stafford, Captain C. E. Mangles, the Hon. Thos. Hope, Samuel Baker, Esq., the Hon. Captain Carnegie, R.N., J. Rodney Croskey, Esq., and Daniel Gooch, Esq. Considering that the *Great Eastern* should be placed, without loss of time, in a condition to earn a dividend for the proprietors, and as for this purpose further capital is absolutely necessary, the committee recommend that the directors should be authorised to borrow a sum of money not exceeding £50,000; that the nominal capital of the company should be increased from £330,000 to £430,000; and that powers should be vested in the board to raise, by mortgage, debentures, preference shares, or otherwise, such additional capital, if necessary. It is not anticipated by the committee that the whole of this sum will be required. They call especial attention to the position in which the *Great Eastern* is now placed; requiring, as she does, an estimated outlay of not more than £30,000 to send her on a voyage to America, equipped in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Trade. Her cost to the proprietors will then be about £350,000, which is less than £17 per ton. Mr. Samuel Baker, who read the report, said the first thing for the proprietors to do was to obtain the means for finishing the ship, and, in order that this object might speedily be attained, the new board must



PRINCE BARIATINSKY.

hended in the general designation of the "Lesghier") found in Schamyl a rallying point and a genial leader; whilst the tribes of the right flank (properly Tcherkesses) avoided every bond of union.

Bariatinsky climbed the ladder of military promotion step by step until he attained the rank of Imperial Adjutant-General; and when Prince Woronzow arrived in the Caucasus he placed him at the head of his staff. The Russians adopted a plan of war which, though tedious in its progress, was nevertheless certain as to its ultimate result. They continually advanced to the nearest encampments of the enemy and there erected fortresses, made roads, and cut down forests right and left. By this means their position was improved in every succeeding year, and they conquered the country bit by bit. Schamyl endeavoured to thwart a system which so manifestly tended to his destruction; he directed his attacks first on one point then on another—now harassing the enemy in his rear, and now boldly assailing the Russian fortresses. But the partial advantages gained by the Imaum could not avert, and served merely to postpone, his inevitable downfall.

The Russian-Turkish war was a diversion which Schamyl was not in a condition to turn to his advantage. He could not descend from his

the Hon. Captain Carnegie, R.N., J. Rodney Croskey, Esq., and Daniel Gooch, Esq. Considering that the *Great Eastern* should be placed, without loss of time, in a condition to earn a dividend for the proprietors, and as for this purpose further capital is absolutely necessary, the committee recommend that the directors should be authorised to borrow a sum of money not exceeding £50,000; that the nominal capital of the company should be increased from £330,000 to £430,000; and that powers should be vested in the board to raise, by mortgage, debentures, preference shares, or otherwise, such additional capital, if necessary. It is not anticipated by the committee that the whole of this sum will be required. They call especial attention to the position in which the *Great Eastern* is now placed; requiring, as she does, an estimated outlay of not more than £30,000 to send her on a voyage to America, equipped in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Trade. Her cost to the proprietors will then be about £350,000, which is less than £17 per ton. Mr. Samuel Baker, who read the report, said the first thing for the proprietors to do was to obtain the means for finishing the ship, and, in order that this object might speedily be attained, the new board must

have their undivided confidence. He did not believe there would be much difficulty in obtaining the money; while, as regarded the ultimate success of the undertaking, he entertained no doubt whatever. It would be best in the first instance to send the ship to America, but after that it would be the duty of the new directors to determine whether it would not be better to employ her in long voyages. Nothing had transpired in the course of the inquiry to expose any one of the directors to dishonourable imputations. The report was adopted.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 116. THE CRUCIBLE.

THE House of Commons is a crucible wherein men and measures are awfully tested. Many a man have we known who on metropolitan or provincial hustings and platforms loomed so large and had come to be considered so grand an orator that it was said that if he could but get into the House he would astonish the members not a little and carry all before him. Well, at last he got into the House. He was put to the crucible test, and then, how all his grandeur was dissipated!—how his greatness vanished! So shrunk and shrivelled a thing was he when he came out that his most enthusiastic friends were ashamed of him! How this is would be long to tell, but so it is; and as with men so with measures. During the vacation numberless measures are prepared, and to their admiring supporters they look so reasonable and just it seems they have only to be proposed to the House to be received with acclamation. At last they are proposed and are read a first time in silence, or, it may be, with a greeting of cheers; and the friends of the said measures outside the House—good, simple souls—fancy their projects are safe. But wait awhile. Bills are seldom opposed on their first reading. Stop till they come to the second stage. When a bill is read the first time the Secretary of State to whose department it belongs to examine it, perhaps, is not there, or, if he be there, he knows nothing about it nor cares to know, at present. But on the second reading the case is different. Since the bill was introduced it has been submitted to some shrewd official, has been examined, and annotated, and handed to the chief, who himself has glanced over it. And now the second reading is pressed. He rises in his place; he holds the bill in his hand; and by his mode of handling it you can see that he means mischief. Generally, the official way of crushing a bill is very simple, and, sometimes, there is something of contempt in it. "I have looked over this bill," he says, "and I have come to the conclusion that it is not a measure which I can allow to pass." And then, in a few short sentences, he so exposes its inconsistencies and shows up its absurdities that the measure which looked so just and reasonable out of the House is so changed in appearance that the honourable promoter is glad to withdraw it, and himself too, from observation. We remember a notable instance of this sort. Last Session, at the urgent request of his constituents, a metropolitan member brought in a bill to regulate the sale of fireworks. There had been some explosions in his borough which had alarmed the people. Well, the bill was brought in, was read a first time without opposition, and was also read a second time with but little, and by the mover and his friends was thought to be safe; but when the time came for it to go into Committee—somewhere about two o'clock in the morning, by-the-by—Sir George Lewis arose and pointed out the curious fact that the bill went to the regulation of the sale of fireworks, which said fireworks, by a statute still in force and which this bill did not repeal, could not legally be sold at all. Great merriment was excited by this revelation, in the midst of which the bill was withdrawn. "This," the reader will say, "was surely an exceptional case." But, no; every Session there are bills equally absurd introduced; and if any one would take the trouble to think a moment he cannot fail to see that, in the complex state of our laws, it is foolish for tyros to originate legislation. If they do they are sure to blunder; but still they will do it, for here as in so many things besides, "fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

SIR CORNEWALL LEWIS ON COURTS OF APPEAL IN CRIMINAL CASES.

But sometimes the objectionable measure is deemed worthy of elaborate exposure. We had one of this character last week before the House. During the vacation there had arisen a loud clamour for a court of appeal in criminal cases. The Smethurst case had turned up, and, later, the still more painful case of the Rev. Mr. Hatch; and a thousand throats and pens had echoed and re-echoed the cry, "We must have a court of appeal! It has long been obviously necessary. It must be granted; why should it not be? The necessity is clear; let there be no more delay." So Mr. McMahon, the member for Wexford county, a barrister on the Oxford circuit not entirely unknown to fame, determined to be the mouthpiece of this demand for justice, and bring in a bill. And during the first week of the Session, we believe, he brought in his bill, which was read a first time without opposition, and printed; outside the House no doubt the success of the measure was deemed secure by not a few. But, alas for Mr. McMahon's fame! it was not to be so. This measure had to go into the crucible, and those who were present will not soon forget the process nor the result. It went into the pot, in the opinion of the promoter, a nugget of gold; it came out a mere heap of ashes; and as the rigorous analyst relentlessly applied his test and exhibited the results the House could hardly keep from laughing outright. The analyst was Sir George Lewis, and perhaps a more able, searching analysis was never made in the House of Commons. In a party fight Sir George never shines. He is not an orator, nor a rhetorician, nor even a good speaker. He has no fancy, no imagination, no humour, no wit. He never laughs, and seldom makes others laugh. He seldom indulges in a figure, and never attempts a sarcasm. His action, though much improved, is still awkward, and, though he does not hesitate nor repeat his sentences as much as he used to do, he cannot yet be said to be fluent. But, all this notwithstanding, in his own line, which is that of a logician, a close reasoner, he stands, perhaps, unrivalled in the House; and give him a good subject, a nice quiet audience, and time before him, and you will be sure to hear something masterly and able from Sir George. On this occasion everything was in his favour. The time was auspicious—it was a morning sitting; the audience, though few, was fit; the subject was exactly suitable for the exercise of his powers; and how the right honourable Baronet enjoyed his work! This was evident to all who heard him—and what wonder? The consciousness of power is an enjoyment; the exercise of it is still more so. The effect of Sir George's speech was remarkable, and worthy of notice. The question, "Will Mr. McMahon divide?" was at first answered by an "Of course he will." Soon, however, the answer was of a more doubtful character, something of this sort—"Well, I don't know; but I should say not, for he is sure to be beaten;" whilst further on all doubt vanished. "Divide? No, of course he won't; it would be madness. Why, he won't get ten votes." After Sir George sat down there was little more said; indeed, there was nothing to say. He had exhausted the subject. Mr. Edwin James chirped a little, and Mr. Denman and Mr. Mellor; but the grand assault had been delivered, and all that followed was like the dropping shots after a battle.

FIRST DEFEAT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

On Thursday last week the Government met with its first defeat. The gentleman who achieved this success was Mr. Aysford Wise, member for Stafford. Mr. Wise was elected first in 1852. He was educated in France, Germany, and Italy expressly for the diplomatic service; but, though thus specially and elaborately trained, he has never served, even as a secretary or attaché in an embassy. How this we know not, nor is it of consequence to know. But, though Mr. Wise has not been a diplomatist, it is on matters connected with diplomatic arrangements that he generally speaks; and, if we remember rightly, he has on these subjects beaten the Government more than once. Mr. Wise is not an orator—does not, indeed, affect oratory, his forte is rather that of a careful, painstaking watcher of the expenditure of the nation, and, as such, there are few men in the House more useful than Mr. Wise. The motion on which the honourable gentleman defeated the Government was one bearing on finance. The Miscellaneous Estimates have of late years increased enormously. In 1839 they amounted to £2,651,000.

In 1859 they had risen to £7,880,000, and there is every probability that, if resolute means be not taken to arrest them, they will still go on increasing. Now, in arresting the increase of expenditure, it is well known that a Committee of the whole House is all but powerless. It may now and then lop off a trifle when some party feeling is excited, but it can do no more. Mr. Wise therefore proposes that every year a Select Committee shall be appointed to examine the expenditure of the year preceding, in order, if possible, to stop the increase under this head. Any reduction of the amount Mr. Wise is not so sanguine as to expect, but he thinks that perhaps the increase may be arrested. Of course, to the appointment of such a Committee the Government could not consent; for, though not so in name, this move is in effect an infringement of one of the prerogatives of the Government, or, in other words, the prerogative of the Crown; for, though the Commons has clearly the right to say what money for the Crown shall be granted, it has never yet assumed the power to say what shall be asked. It is in theory the Crown that directs the Estimates to be laid before the House, and the duty of the House is to say whether the Estimates so presented shall be granted. It was hardly, therefore, to be expected that the Government, or even the leaders of the Opposition, should consent to this democratic motion. It has, however, been shrewdly suspected that though the Government could not support the motion, they were not over-anxious for a successful opposition to it, and were not overwhelmed with dismay when they were defeated; and the fact that there was no exercise of the "whip" on the occasion seems to sanction this view. The truth is, we believe, that the increase of these Estimates has long been a matter of serious concern to successive Governments; and if this Committee can do anything to stop it they will not only do a good thing for the people, but will also materially help the Government too.

The debate was chiefly remarkable for Mr. Bright's speech, and that speech chiefly remarkable for an anecdote which he related. The anecdote was as follows:—"There was, some time ago, a Committee on the Civil Service expenditure. On that Committee there was a young member connected by special ties with the Whig families, and it was his casting vote that destroyed an otherwise immortal Lord of the Treasury. What was the consequence to that young member? Why, they have never put him on a Committee from that day to this; and, unless he should repent of his grievous sin, he never will be put upon a Committee to make inquiries into expenditure again." This anecdote amused the House greatly. The young member who so flagrantly sinned, and has been ostracised ever since, is Mr. Hastings Russell, member for Bedfordshire, nephew of the Duke of Bedford and Lord John Russell, and presumptive heir to the Dukedom, and in all probability, if his life be spared, will be the Duke at no very distant day. Mr. Hastings Russell is not extensively known in the House, and is still less known out of it. The reason is he never speaks; but to the "whips" he is well known as a most eccentric member—that is to say, eccentric in their sense of the word, as he does not move on their centre. In politics Mr. Hastings Russell is a true Liberal. In his Parliamentary conduct he is one of the most independent men in the House. Mr. Russell, though so closely allied to Lord John, has often voted against him. On the great China question, in 1857, he voted against him; and on this very motion introduced by Mr. Wise Mr. Russell went into one lobby and Lord John into the other. Mr. Hastings Russell is the son of the late Lord William Russell, the elder brother of Lord John. The "otherwise immortal Lord of the Treasury" whom Mr. Russell extinguished by his casting vote was Lord Robert Cecil.

MR. GLADSTONE'S ILLNESS.

Monday was to have been a grand night. Most of the members were in town, and every seat set apart for strangers had long been taken. Almost every member had given his order for "the Strangers' Gallery." The lists for the Speaker's and ladies' galleries might have been filled a dozen times over, and no doubt the peers' and diplomatic seats would have been filled to crowding. This is not to be wondered at. Gladstone delivering his Budget alone would be sufficiently attractive to fill the House at any time; but on this occasion there is an unusual attraction, for, perhaps there has not been so important a Budget as this since the days of Sir Robert Peel. Rumours of all kinds flew about the lobby on Monday night touching the illness of the great Chancellor of the Exchequer. Some said he had diphtheria; others would have it that his disease was serious congestion of the lungs; whilst a few of the baser sort whispered about that he was not ill at all, but, being unprepared, he was shamming to gain time.

We ourselves were accosted by one of these whisperers: "This is a queer move, is it not?" said he. "What move?" "Why, this move of Gladstone shamming illness." "Why, you surely do not really believe that he is shamming?—why shouldn't he be ill? Have Ministers of State immunities from colds?" Whereupon our friend shrugged his shoulders, looked at us out of the corner of his eye, and went his way evidently astonished at our simplicity, and congratulating himself on his own superior sagacity and penetration. Well, thought we, go your ways—go your ways. You are cunning, clever, sagacious, no doubt; but, rather than possess that small, vulpine, suspicious intellect of yours we would consent to be deceived every day of our lives. Just fancy, reader, if you can—we sincerely trust, for your own sake, that you cannot—Gladstone unready!—Gladstone shamming!

HERTFORDSHIRE JUSTICE.—The following letter appears in the *Daily News*:—"While staying at St. Alban's early last month I strayed into the Town-hall, where the Quarter Sessions were being held, on Thursday, the 8th. I then and there heard a poor agricultural labourer, out of work, for stealing a few sticks from a fagot-stack during the inclement weather, sentenced by the Earl of Verulam (chairman), with the concurrence of the Bench, to three years' penal servitude. The poor fellow had a family of four young children, and his wife (whose distress in court it was heartrending to see) was fully expecting a fifth. It was stated that the man had been before convicted—for stealing rabbits. I understood—and that this was the cause of the ferocity (for so I must call it) of the sentence."

NEW SYSTEM OF NAVAL WARFARE.—A paper was read on Monday night by Captain Wheatley, R.N., at the United Service Institution, on "A New System of Building and Arming Ships of War, and the Advantages of this Improvement." The plan proposed by Captain Wheatley is to supersede large men-of-war by the introduction of a class of ships of the character of large gun-boats, each carrying two guns of large calibre. Captain Wheatley takes for the model of his ships the fast sailing-vessels of the Indian seas, which are built very fine fore and aft. A ship of this shape, of 1800 or 2000 tons burden, he proposes to propel with paddle and screw combined, and to arm with two guns of the calibre of 16 inches, carrying a round solid shot weighing upwards of 400lb., or a bolt of 1000lb. to be propelled by a charge of 76lb. of powder. The fore and aft parts of the ships are to be coated with plates of iron of sufficient thickness to resist common shot, which would rebound from the sloping bows without penetrating. Six of these smaller ships, Captain Wheatley thinks, would be more than a match for three times the number of three-deckers or large frigates; and, even allowing the latter to have greater speed, they would be inevitably destroyed before they could come to close quarters with the fore-and-afters, which during the chase would always have their guns bearing with most advantage on the enemy, whilst the latter would be unable to fire any of their heavy guns.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.—A letter from St. Petersburg of the 24th ult. says:—"In Russia a financial crisis, which is almost as severe as that in Austria, prevails, but there is this difference in the situation of the two countries—the foreign credit of Austria is destroyed, whilst Russia enjoys the confidence of foreign capitalists from the exactness with which she has constantly fulfilled her engagements. Owing to the crisis the precious metals are being hidden, and even copper money has become so scarce that a premium is paid when it is given for paper. The commercial community hopes that the Government will keep its promise to reduce the amount of paper money, and to put into circulation from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 of roubles in new copper coin. So great is the scarcity of small coin that notes are cut into pieces to represent such coin, and retail traders have issued a sort of paper tokens which they agree among themselves to accept as coin."

THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF SPAIN.—There is some misconception in England as to Spain's military resources. She has on foot 24,000 men in Cuba, with a reserve of 16,000 more (not less than required to keep that island from Jonathan). She has 100,000 men in Spain Proper, with a corps de reserve of 69,000. At the Canary Isles, 7000; at Puerto Rico, 3500, with reserve of 3200; in the Gulf of Guinea, at Fernando Po, 150; at the Philippine Islands, 14,000, with reserve of 3500. Her marine establishment counts 20,000 men, her civic guard 10,600, her gendarmerie, or carabinieri, 12,000—giving a total of 274,000 armed Spaniards.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat for only a short time this day. No business of importance was brought forward, and the House adjourned before six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PARKS.

Mr. E. JAMES asked the First Lord of the Treasury what plan the Government proposed for the ornamental cultivation of the space now vacant by the removal of shrubs and growing trees in Hyde Park?

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to this question, said that great injustice had been done by reports upon this subject to the late Mr. Fitzroy, who had never contemplated any alteration of the arrangements of Lord Lansdowne. He explained the proposed plan, which, when completed, he was sure would give satisfaction to the public.

MR. HAY AND MOROCCO.—THE FRENCH ARMAMENTS.

Mr. MAGUIRE called the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the alleged or reported misconduct of Mr. Drummond Hay, her Majesty's Consul at Tangier; and asked whether any facts had come to the knowledge of the Government which would justify the belief that he had violated strict neutrality in relation to the Powers at war in Morocco?

Mr. KINGLAKE asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it would be consistent with the interests of the public service to communicate any information which had reached the Foreign Office in respect to the military and naval preparations of the Emperor of the French? The information which had reached him, he said, was not of such an assuring kind as he hoped to receive from Lord J. Russell.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in reply to Mr. Maguire, said Mr. Drummond Hay knew too well his duty to the Crown to take any course inconsistent with the general policy of the Government he served. He had exerted to the utmost his influence to prevent the breaking out of the war, and since the war had taken place his conduct had been entirely free from blame. In answer to Mr. Kinglake's inquiry Lord John said the Government had not received any account of extraordinary military preparations in France. As the Congress had not met, and matters had not settled down in Italy, it was necessary to take precautions to prevent the breaking out of war in Europe. Her Majesty's Government had earnestly employed their efforts to secure the permanence of peace, and he had received assurances from the Sardinian Government that they would do nothing to provoke a renewal of the war. Austria was by no means disposed to renew hostilities, and he had no reason to suppose that the Emperor of the French was making the military preparations to which Mr. Kinglake had referred. As to the French naval preparations, he could not say that they ought to be a matter of jealousy to us.

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS.

Mr. J. B. SMITH called attention to the importance to our commerce and manufactures of the opening of the navigation of the River Godavery, and asked what were the intentions of the Government in this matter, insisting particularly upon the easy access which would thereby be afforded to the cotton districts of Berar, which could furnish an ample supply of the finest wool.

Sir C. WOOD explained the political obstacles encountered in measures necessary for completely opening the navigation of the Godavery. He then replied to other questions suggested by several members on the subjects of the Five per Cent Indian Loan, the grant of batta to the troops engaged in the Persian expedition, the introduction of British merchants and settlers and natives of India into the Legislative Council, and the exportation of natives of British India to the French colonies as indentured labourers.

At the conclusion of the discussion upon the different questions, Mr. BOUVERIE noticed his number (not fewer than fourteen), and the variety of their topics, as illustrative of the "forbearance" and "moderation" of members. He repeated his complaint of the practice, which, he said, was a violation of the standing order, and on Fridays orders of the day should have precedence of notices of motions.

After some further business, the House adjourned.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

The LORD CHANCELLOR introduced a bill for the regulation and winding up of joint-stock companies, the object of which was to consolidate the laws at present in force upon that subject. The bill was read a first time.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

In reply to a question from Lord Vivian, The Earl of RIXON explained the steps which had been taken to render volunteer corps efficient, and stated it was the intention of the Government to supply all effective members of the corps with rifles, but not with clothing. Efficient adjutants would also be appointed. The force already enrolled amounted to between 60,000 and 70,000 men, and was daily increasing. There was no intention on the part of the Government to violate the principle of volunteering by paying the artillery volunteer corps during the period they were on drill. The Government, however, intended to encourage the movement by establishing a system of inspection throughout the country, which would, he considered, render the volunteer corps, if ever their services should be required, most formidable opponents. In reply to questions from Lords Ellenborough and Wensleydale he said that, on the ground of expense alone, it would be impossible to appoint drill-sergeants to all the corps; but arrangements were being made whereby the services of drill-sergeants might be readily procured at the expense of the volunteer corps themselves.

Their Lordships adjourned at an early hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BUDGET.

Lord PALMERSTON postponed, owing to the indisposition of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Committee on the Customs Acts and Mr. Gladstone's financial statement until Friday, on which day, he added, the commercial treaty with France would be laid upon the table.

THE DISTURBANCES IN ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

Mr. BYNG put a question relative to the occurrences in the church of St. George-in-the-East on Sunday, which drew from Sir G. Lewis (who deputed to the term "outrage" employed by Mr. Byng) merely an expression of regret.

The Newspaper Bill was read a third time and passed.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE RIOTS AT ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

Lord DERBY asked what course her Majesty's Government intended to adopt with respect to the proceedings in the church of St. George-in-the-East. His Lordship severely censured the conduct of the Rector, who, by adhering to a few empty ceremonies, was alienating the feelings of his parishioners, for whose spiritual welfare he was accountable, and was driving them to the chapels of the Dissenters. Such conduct, however, was no excuse for the disgraceful proceedings which had occurred on the two previous Sunday evenings. These outrages were the work of a mob composed of the dregs of the community, and he wished to ask her Majesty's Government what steps they had taken to prevent these outrages; next, whether they had ascertained what power the law gave them to put a stop to such scandalous proceedings; and, if such power was conferred by law, whether they had put it in force. If the law, however, was not sufficiently strong, he wished to know whether the Government was prepared to introduce some measure to put a stop to such disgraceful proceedings.

Lord GRANVILLE agreed with Lord Derby in his condemnation of a clergyman who indulged in ceremonies so hateful to his parishioners. The police had done all they legally could to suppress disturbances.

Lord BROUGHAM suggested that the police should be admitted within the church, as their experienced eyes would enable them to single out the ringleaders in a disturbance. He expressed the greatest disgust at the outrages which had been committed, and hoped the Bishop of London would see the propriety of closing the church.

The Bishop of London said that the suggestion of Lord Brougham had been acted on already, without success. If on that occasion the two contending parties had put the question under his arbitration, he had no hesitation in saying that he could have settled the matter at once; and if now the parties were to place the matter in his hands, he thought the subject might be arranged without shutting up the church.

The subject then dropped.

THE ANNEXATION OF SAVOY.

Lord NORMANBY moved that an address be presented to the Queen, praying her Majesty to direct her Government to use their best endeavours to prevent the transfer of Savoy and Nice to France. His Lordship descended upon the discrepancy of the statements made upon this subject in July last by Count Walewski, and the rumours afloat and confirmed at the present moment. Everybody believed on the Continent that a compact for the annexation of Savoy and Nice existed between the Emperor of the French and the King of Sardinia. It would be satisfactory to hear that no change in the intentions of the French Government had taken place on this

subject since the 18th of last March, when Lord Cowley wrote to Lord Malmesbury that the Emperor of the French contemplated no increase of French territory. His Lordship considered the question in its geographical and strategic aspect, and the conclusion he came to was, that the annexation would be injurious to the balance of power in Europe, to the interests of Savoy and its inhabitants, and, by adding a discontented population to its sway, to the interests of France itself.

Lord GRANVILLE said he had no further information to add to that which he had formerly given to a question upon this same subject. Her Majesty's Government were still in communication with the French Government on the matter, and had been assured that, although there had been formerly a question of the annexation of Savoy and Nice under certain contingencies, as those contingencies had not arisen there was no question of annexation at the present moment. At the same time France explained that the creation of a powerful Italian kingdom on her frontier might provoke the consideration of such a question. The information from Sardinia was also to the same effect—that no compact existed between France and Sardinia for the cession, exchange, or sale of Savoy and Nice to France. The Government of this country had represented to the Government of France all the objections which would arise from the contemplated enlargement of French territory, and pointed out that the arguments used by the French for the extension of the frontier to the Alps might with equal propriety be applied to the frontier of the Rhine. At the present moment the Government were in communication with France, Sardinia, and Austria on the Italian question. The policy of this country was not one of nationalities, but the avoidance of any armed interference in the affairs of the peninsula, and to secure to the Italians the privilege of choosing for themselves. Considering the present circumstances of the two countries, and the friendly feeling existing between them, he thought Lord Normanby would best consult the public interests by withdrawing his motion.

Lord GREY thought the statement made by Lord Granville showed the necessity of bringing forward this motion. Nothing could be more unsatisfactory than the conduct of the Government of France upon this subject, especially when coupled with the language of the French newspapers. The annexation would be so pregnant with evil to Europe and this country that her Majesty's Government ought to do all they could to prevent such a catastrophe. He did not think the honour of the country involved in preventing this measure if the two parties interested were agreed upon it, but he did think that the principle which would be violated by such an annexation should be strongly supported by this country. In a brief and lucid argument he exposed the fallacy of the proposition that the subjects of a settled Government had a right to choose their own rulers and transfer their allegiance from their own to a foreign King at their own caprice and convenience. He entreated Lord Granville to reconsider his determination to oppose the motion, as he (Lord Grey) believed that they were all unanimous in condemning the proposed annexation. While the declaration of the House against it would be received with the greatest satisfaction in Europe, it could not be deemed unfriendly to the Emperor of France, but rather the contrary; because, if it induced him to give up his present design, it would preserve for him the confidence of Europe, which would otherwise be lost. If it were really true that a secret treaty had been entered into between France and Sardinia for their mutual aggrandisement, it was a crime against the civilised world.

Lord SHAPPELTON strongly denounced the present policy of France, which, under the guise of moderation, was pursuing a subtle course most dangerous to the interests of this country and of Europe.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE deprecated the use of strong language, as calculated to excite an irritation which it would be difficult to allay, and which would be a great obstacle to the proper reception and calm dispassionate consideration of the representations made by her Majesty's Government on the question.

Lord BROUGHAM thought the statement from Lord Granville satisfactory. He strongly objected to the annexation of Savoy and Nice to France, and asked where the violation of the settlement of Europe, if once departed from, would stop.

Lord DUNBAR hoped to have heard that the advice tendered by her Majesty's Government had been so received by the Emperor of the French that there was no longer cause for the apprehension of Europe in respect to the annexation of Savoy to France. However, the discussion of this evening, whatever might be the fate of the motion, would bear this fruit—it would exhibit the unanimity of the British House of Peers on this question. The two Powers who would suffer the most, in his opinion, by the annexation would be the two countries immediately interested; for, if the annexation should take place, it would be the whole of the proclamations of the Emperor of the French and the King of Sardinia, which announced so disinterested a policy, and which were totally inconsistent with the rumours of the compact for mutual aggrandisement. There was, however, another reason why Savoy should not be annexed to France. Piedmont was bound by a specific treaty to Switzerland never to cede Savoy, and Piedmont could not set aside the treaties with Europe, nor the specific treaty with Switzerland, without a violation of the international law of Europe. The language of Piedmont to France ought to be—that it was impossible, owing to her treaty with Switzerland, that she could yield on this question. If Piedmont held this language, France would surely not take these provinces by force. Such a step would be fatal to France in her relations with Europe; and it would be said that Austria had been expelled by France from Italy, not for Italian independence, but for the furtherance of her own selfish ends. The present was a great opportunity for the Emperor of the French to establish a character for peace and moderation, by declaring that he entertained no idea of extending the French frontier beyond its present limits, or of destroying the balance of power in Europe, but that, on the contrary, he would maintain a policy of non-interference in the affairs of other countries; by such a declaration he would establish a moral power throughout Europe as great as the material power he now wielded.

Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE expressed his thanks to Lord Normanby for bringing forward the motion, and said he entirely concurred with the remarks of Lord Derby.

Lord NORMANBY, after a few words in reply, withdrew his motion. Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE ITALIAN QUESTION.

In reply to a question by Lord C. HAMILTON, whether Lord Cowley had been instructed to communicate to the French Government a project for the definitive settlement of the Italian question,

Lord J. RUSSELL stated what had passed—namely, that her Majesty's Government had made to that of France certain propositions with the view to a solution of the Italian question; that the French Government had communicated these propositions to that of Austria, but no official decision had been yet received from the Government of Austria, which had, however, assured her Majesty's Government that it had no intention whatever to interfere in the affairs of Italy, but would confine itself to the defence of its own possessions. Lord John added that he felt great hope that a settlement of the affairs of Italy might be arrived at, and that it would be a pacific settlement.

SECRECY IN DIVORCE COURTS.

Lord J. MANNERS moved for leave to bring in a bill to enable the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes to hold its sittings with closed doors. He urged the offence to public decency offered by the public exposure of the details of certain cases in that court, and that the remedy he proposed for an evil so notorious was a very simple and obvious one. The objection to his proposal was founded upon the maxim that publicity was the soul of justice. To this maxim he opposed another of equal authority—that there was no rule without an exception; and, as the evil was patent and flagrant and the remedy simple, he entreated the House not to withhold its assent to the introduction of the bill.

Mr. JAMES observed that the question had been already discussed in the House, which, by rejecting a clause giving the court this power, had expressly decided it. The matter, in his opinion, should be left to the discretion of the press. He moved the previous question.

Mr. ROBERTS supported this amendment. He insisted upon the danger of conceding such a discretion to a judge. If the people were shut out from courts of justice they would be excluded from a great theatre where morality was taught.

Lord R. CRICH, in supporting the motion, remarked that, besides the public grievance resulting from publicity, there was another—the grievance of the suitors.

Sir G. LEWIS said he should vote for the amendment. The proposal was not to adopt a general measure, applicable to civil and criminal courts and to preliminary proceedings before magistrates, but a separate rule with regard to the Divorce Court: it singled out a particular court for an exceptional regulation.

Mr. MALIN also opposed the motion.

Mr. MACAULAY said the proposal in the Bill was for the interest of suitors, who were sometimes withheld by a dread of publicity from seeking a remedy to which they were entitled.

Lord J. MANNERS having replied, the House divided, when "the previous question" was carried by 268 to 83.

MASTERS AND SERVANTS.

Mr. MACKINNON obtained leave to bring in a bill to establish Equitable Councils of Conciliation to adjust differences between masters and workmen; and

Mr. CAVE, in the absence of Sir C. Burrell, a bill to diminish the danger incurred by servants and others employed in cleansing and repairing windows.

Mr. CROOK moved for leave to bring in a bill to place the employment of

women, young persons, and children in bleaching and dyeing works under the regulations of the Factories Acts.

After a few remarks by Sir G. LEWIS and Lord J. MANNERS, Mr. TURNER, though he did not oppose the motion, thought Mr. Crook had shown more pertinacity than sound judgment in renewing it. He should give the bill the strongest opposition.

Leave was given.

After the transaction of some further business the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHURCH RATES.

After the presentation of a vast number of petitions upon the subject, one of which, signed by sixty-four archdeacons against the bill, was read at length at the table.

Sir J. TRELAWNY moved the second reading of the Church-rates Abolition Bill. He referred to the weight of authorities in favour of a settlement of the question, and reviewed the arguments against the abolition of the rate founded upon its legal incidents, contending that it was not, as sometimes alleged, a charge upon the land. The decision of the House of Lords in the "Baintree case" had made an entire alteration in the law of church rate, and the amount of rate now levied had been reduced to £253,000, and was reducible still further by the exclusion of illegal charges, while the exemption of Dissenters from the compulsory payment of the rate (which the opponents of the bill were prepared to concede) would have the effect of augmenting the amount of voluntary contributions towards the repair of churches.

The motion was seconded by Sir C. DOUGLAS.

Lord R. MONTAGU moved, as an amendment, to defer the second reading for six months. He said that since the evidence adduced before the Lords' Committee last year, which Sir John seemed not to have read, the question had entered an entirely new phase, and assumed a different character. It was formerly supposed that this was a question of conscience; but it now appeared, from the evidence of Dissenters, that the conscientious objection had nothing to do with the matter; that it was merely a political objection, the ultimate aim of which was the severance of the Church and the State. He read portions of the evidence taken by the Committee in support of his position. The evidence and the number of petitions proved that the desire for the abolition of church rates was not general, and a feeling was growing up in favour of their continuance.

This amendment was seconded by Mr. R. LONG, who dwelt upon the injustice of sweeping away a fund appropriated by law for the sustentation of churches without equivalent or compensation.

Sir G. C. LEWIS, after defending Lord John Russell (who was absent) against some strong remarks upon his change of opinion regarding this question by Mr. Long, observed that he was not one of those who took extreme views upon it; and he proceeded to explain the reasons which had led him reluctantly to the conclusion that the only course for him to take was to vote in favour of the bill.

Mr. K. SKYMER contended that in rural districts there was no real opposition to church rates; and the opposition of Dissenters, it was now avowed, was not founded upon a conscientious objection.

Mr. BRISTOW said he thought that, both for the interests of the Church of England and the peace of the country, it would be prudent to pass the bill.

Mr. DISRAELI wished to put before the House a view of this question which had not been at all considered—namely, the extremely centralising character of the measure, which called upon a central authority to interfere with the parochial constitution, at least 10 per cent of the parishes not wishing to be interfered with. He looked with great jealousy upon a central authority interfering with a constitution that had existed for centuries and had been productive of beneficial results. The object was no longer to redress a practical grievance, but to adopt a speculative theory. Heretofore legislation upon this question was proposed to be based upon a conscientious scruple; but that basis was now abandoned, and the real question was whether there should be an Established Church. Although this issue was not necessarily put before the House upon this occasion, they had it in clear evidence that it was the real issue. He should give the measure his hearty opposition.

Lord FERNOX denied that the abolition of church rates would interfere with the connection of the Church and the State. This measure would only do in England what had been done in Ireland. It would get rid of contests and heartburnings, and the Church of England would be stronger than before.

Mr. PACE and Mr. HUBBARD spoke in opposition to the bill, and Mr. THOMPSON in its support.

Sir J. TRELAWNY replied, and the House having divided, the amendment was negatived by 263 to 231, leaving a majority of 29 in favour of the bill, which was read a second time.

Some other business of a character without public interest having been transacted, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS BILL.

Their Lordships were occupied with the consideration of this bill, which had been moved by Lord CRANWORTH. The bill was ultimately read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NAVY ESTIMATES.

Lord C. PAGET gave notice of his intention to bring forward the Navy Estimates on Monday.

ANNEXATION OF SAVOY.

Mr. M. MILNES gave notice of his intention, upon the motion of Mr. Kinglake on the subject of the annexation of Savoy, to move, as an amendment, the previous question.

CHINA.

Mr. SKYMER FITZGERALD asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any convention had been entered into between her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Emperor of the French with reference to the demands to be made by both Governments on that of China, and with the view of settling the bases of the combined operations of the French and English forces in that country?

Lord J. RUSSELL replied that there was no such convention as that alluded to.

COMMERCIAL TREATIES WITH FRANCE.

Mr. LIDDELL asked the President of the Board of Trade whether any commercial treaty or treaties (other than that recently ratified) were in force between this country and France; and, if so, whether there was any objection to laying copies of the same on the table, with the dates at which they were entered into?

Mr. M. GIBSON said that a commercial treaty had been entered into with France relating to the direct trade between the two countries. It was dated January, 1826, and would be found in the library. There was a decree made in 1854 making certain relaxations in our favour on the occasion of the repeal of the navigation laws.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

Mr. S. HERBERT, in answer to questions relating to volunteer rifle corps, said he thought that Earl De Grey had acted in the fairest way possible in the arrangements respecting the forces referred to.

SMOOTH BORES AND RIFLES.

Mr. S. HERBERT, in reply to Mr. O'Brien, said that the expedition about to be sent from India to China would be provided with rifles for the European soldiers and smooth bores for the natives.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE BUDGET.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Lord Henry Lennox, said he was not prepared to say positively that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to make his financial statement, which must necessarily be a lengthened one, to-morrow (Friday). If the right honourable gentleman should not feel himself strong enough to undertake that duty on Friday, he would ask the indulgence of the House to assent to the postponement of the Budget until Monday next. The commercial treaty would, however, be laid on the table of the House to-morrow (Hear, hear).

FIREWORKS.

Sir G. C. LEWIS, in reply to an hon. member, said it was his intention to introduce a bill to provide for the more secure manufacture of fireworks.

THE CORPORATION OF LONDON.

Sir G. C. LEWIS, in reply to Mr. Ayrton, said he should not be able to move the second reading of the bill for the regulation of the Corporation of London on Monday next, as he had intended.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

Mr. M. MILNES obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Act 6 Vic. c. 18, intitled "An Act to amend the Law for the Registration of Persons entitled to Vote, and to define certain rights of voting, and to regulate certain proceedings in the election of Members to serve in Parliament in England and Wales."

BRIBERY PREVENTION, ETC.

Sir F. KELLY obtained leave to bring in a bill for the prevention of bribery and to amend "The Corrupt Practices Prevention Act (1854)."

INDIAN FINANCE.

Mr. VANESSIANT moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into certain questions relating to the Indian finances.

Sir C. WOOD opposed the motion.

After some discussion the motion was withdrawn.

THE BALLOT.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE moved for leave to bring in a bill to make provision that, at the election of members to serve in Parliament for the city of Gloucester and borough of Wakefield, the electors thereof give their votes by way of ballot.

A debate ensued, which resulted in a majority against the motion of 149 to 118.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Lord PALMERSTON informed the House that he had received a communication from the Chancellor of the Exchequer stating that he felt confident he should be able to-morrow (Friday) to make his financial statement.

THE COMMERCIAL TREATY.

The *Independence Belge* says that the proposals to be considered by the House of Commons as a consequence of the commercial treaty, which was ratified on Saturday at Paris, are as follows:—

"Abolition of duties on all the productions of French manufacture.

"Assimilation of the duties on French spirits with those on English colonial spirits. The duty on those first named is at present 15s. a gallon, on the others only 7s.; the duty on French brandy would thus be lowered by 8s. a gallon.

"Immediate reduction of the duty on French wine to the extent of 2s. 9d. a gallon. The duty at present being 5s. 9d., the new duty will only be 3s. a gallon.

"A second reduction of this duty from the 1st of April, 1861. The duty will be a minimum of 1s., and a maximum of 2s., according to the quantity of alcohol which the wines may contain.

"A merely nominal duty on corn, flour, and all articles made of flour.

"Reduction more or less important of the duties on all other articles imported from France.

"England reserves the right of allowing other nations to participate in these reductions, as well as of modifying hereafter the duties on wines and spirits if the changes in our excise shall render such modifications desirable.

"France on her part undertakes to make the following concessions, but none of them will take immediate effect:—

"Reduction of the duties on English coal and coke to a level with those imposed on the same commodities of Belgian produce.

"Abolition of the duties on wool and cotton.

"Reduction of the duty on iron and machinery.

"Abolition of prohibitions, for which ad valorem duties not exceeding 30 per cent shall be substituted."

THE CHINA QUESTION.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL has produced further papers relative to the proceedings of Mr. Bruce in China. Writing to General Straubenzee on the 31st of July, Mr. Bruce states that if the Chinese were to offer him an apology, and consent to receive him on proper terms at Peking, he should not decline the overture. In answer to a despatch written by Mr. Bruce on the 10th of August, Lord John Russell authorises him, on the receipt of pacific overtures from the Chinese Government, to accept a formal apology for the act of the troops at the Takoo forts in firing on our ships, and gives him instructions for the journey to Peking. He was to proceed to the mouth of the Peiho with a naval force, make the voyage to Tien-Tsin in a British vessel, and require the Chinese authorities to make provision for his conveyance to Peking with his suite, and for his honourable treatment at every part of his journey. But, if no pacific overtures had been made to him, he was himself to initiate a correspondence with the Prime Minister of the Emperor, communicating the demands of her Majesty's Government as stated above, allowing him a month in which to reply; and he was to inform that officer that, in default of the Emperor's unqualified assent to those demands, the British naval and military authorities would resort to force to compel him to observe the Treaty of Tien-Tsin. Mr. Bruce was instructed to announce at Peking that the concession granted by Lord Elgin with respect to the residence of a British Minister in China had been forfeited by the attempt made to obstruct Mr. Bruce's passage in June last; but he was permitted to forego or insist on a personal interview with the Emperor at his discretion.

While the despatch conveying these instructions was on its way out another from Mr. Bruce was on its way home, informing the Queen's Government that the Emperor of China had publicly sanctioned the resistance at Takoo, justifying it by the allegation that the British and French Envoys had been informed at Shanghai by Kwei-liang and Hwahana that Takoo was fortified, and that they must go round by Peh-tang. This allegation is untrue, and it becomes a question at whose door the deceit lies. Mr. Bruce thinks the Chinese Commissioners deceived the Emperor. However this may be, the Chinese Government must be held responsible for the act of its officers, and Lord John Russell therefore adds to his former instructions the direction to state to the Imperial authorities that, unless the most ample apology shall be promptly made, and all the demands already described shall be complied with, a large pecuniary indemnity will be demanded of China.

There is nothing immoderate in these requirements, nothing which indicates the least desire to push matters to extremities. If the Court of Peking were not the blindest in the world, we might safely reckon on its prompt acceptance of the terms proposed.

A SPLIT IN THE CABINET.—The *Press* has learnt, "on authority which admits of no question," that there is a split in the Cabinet on the proposition of the Emperor Napoleon that England and France should combine to settle the Italian question without reference to the views of the rest of Europe. Lord Palmerston, Lord John Russell, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Milner Gibson are in favour of the proposition; Earl Granville, Mr. C. Villiers, the Lord Chancellor, Sir G. C. Lewis, Sir Charles Wood, Lord Elgin, Duke of Newcastle, Duke of Argyll, Sir George Grey, and Mr. Sidney Herbert against it.

SIR DE LACY EVANS AND THE CHINA QUESTION.—Sir De Lacy Evans's intended motion on China, fixed for the 17th, is to the effect that nothing could more contribute to a desirable result than the choice of an ambassador plenipotentiary "of reliable experience, of tried ability, of conciliatory temper, and unfettered by previous contact with Chinese officials," for the conduct of a negotiation, and for directing or counselling the disposition of her Majesty's naval and military forces destined for the service.

THE BALLOT.—A meeting of the council of the Ballot Society, held on Friday week, was attended by several members of Parliament. After full discussion it was resolved to support Mr. Duncombe's proposal to apply the ballot to the constituencies convicted of corruption—such as those of Gloucester and Wakefield.

THE WINE DUTIES.—A deputation of persons interested in the trade of the Cape of Good Hope are about to wait on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request an extension of time for the introduction of the proposed change in the wine duties, and also that the percentage test of alcoholic strength may be so altered as to admit of Cape wines, which average from 25 to 30 per cent, being admitted in the second class—namely, at a duty of 1s. 6d., instead of 2s., as would be the case if that class were limited to wines of a strength below 26 per cent.

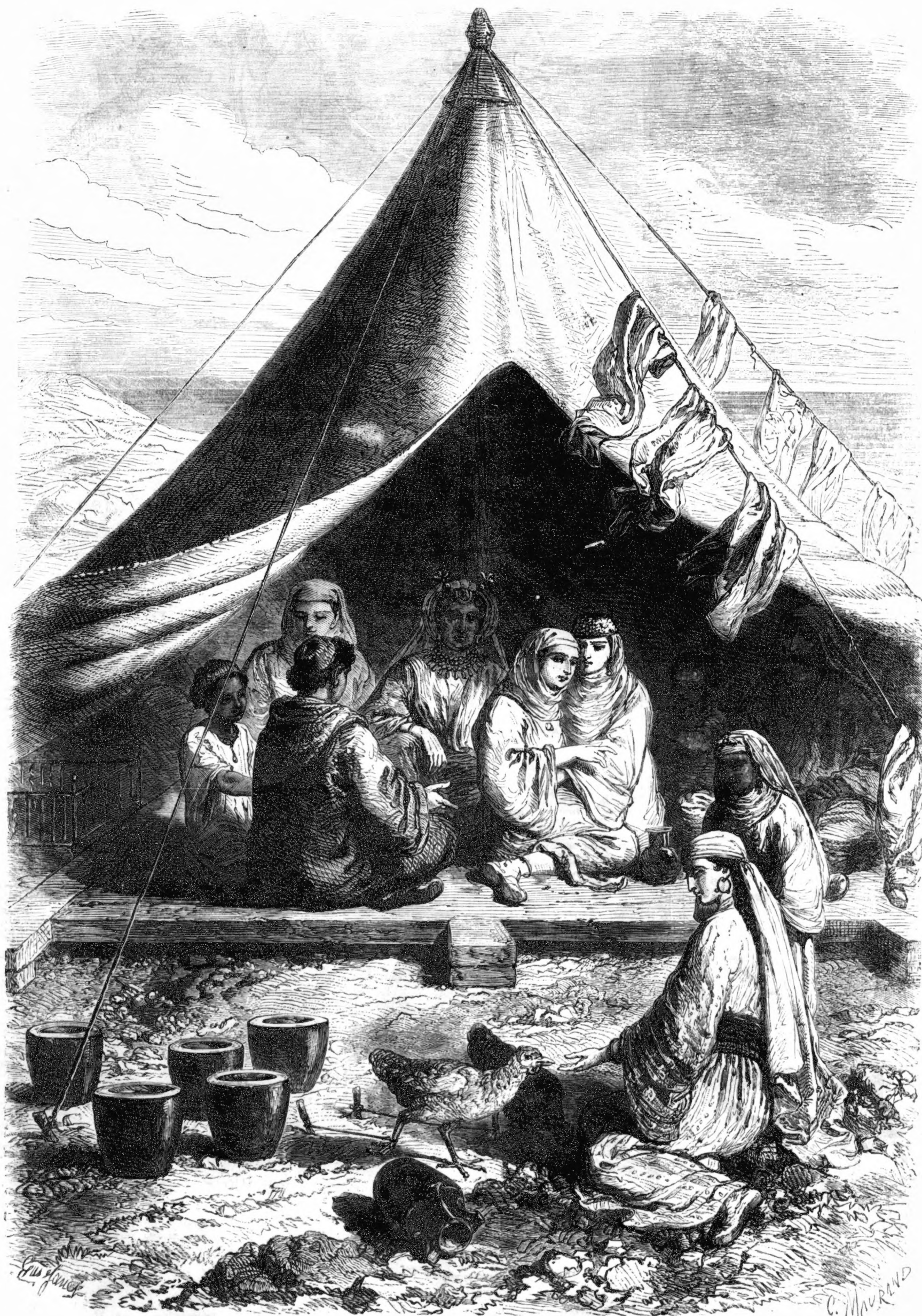
THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE REPEAL OF THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE will hold their ninth annual public meeting on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at St. Martin's Hall.

MAHAPUTRAM ROOPRAM, deputy educational inspector of Kaira, Bombay, comes on a tour to England, his chief object being to get a personal knowledge of the different systems of instruction adopted in the schools of Great Britain and test their applicability to the Indian schools.

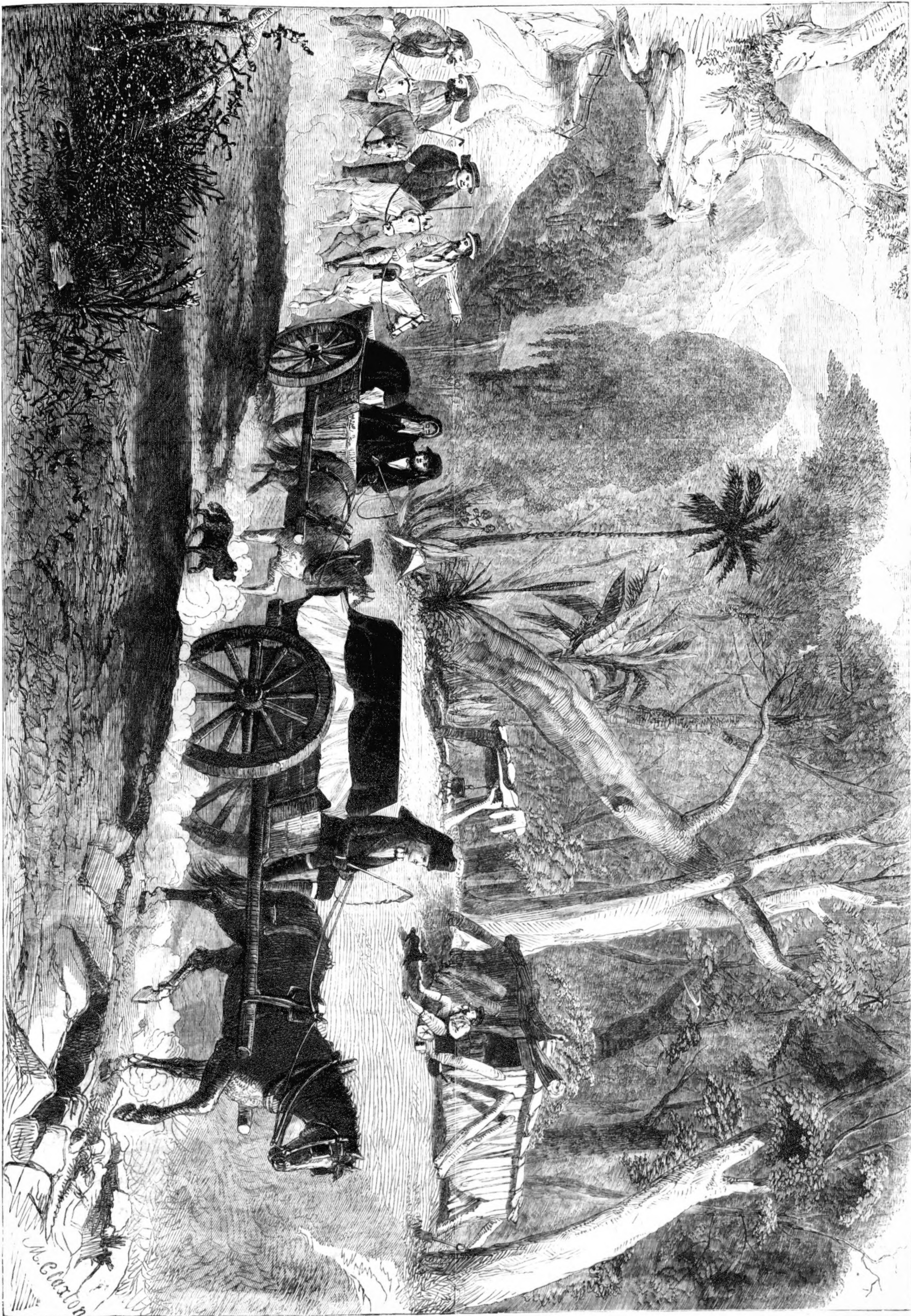
A PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON took place on Tuesday morning soon after one o'clock. The state of the weather was peculiarly favourable for the observation of the phenomenon, the sky being without a cloud.

FAMILIES OF JEWISH REFUGEES AT GIBRALTAR.

On the north side of the town of Gibraltar, and in the shadow of the rock, which here rises to a perpendicular peak, is pitched the camp of the refugee Jews from Morocco. There are, perhaps, in all five hundred tents, each of which gives shelter to a family, however numerous may be its members. Our engraving shows the interior and exterior of one of these canvas asylums, with its inhabitants comfortably "squatted" in their new localities.



FAMILY OF MOORISH REFUGEE JEWS AT GIBRALTAR.



FUNERAL IN THE BUSH.—(DRAWN BY MARSHAL CLAYTON.)

A FUNERAL IN THE BUSH.

STRANGE and melancholy as this scene may be to our English readers, it will be familiar enough to those who are acquainted with bush life in Australia, and not at all so sad. The stranger who first beholds such a cavalcade winding along through the awful stillness of the wood is struck with a newer, a wider, and more solemn idea of life and death; but when, on nearing the procession, he finds the silence broken by the boisterous conversation of the "mourners," who, as they jog after the death-cart, exchange in loud tones information on sheep-farming, land sales, horse-dealing, and other miscellaneous matters, his surprise takes another turn. Sometimes the corpse has to be jolted over fifteen or twenty miles of road before it reaches the place of final rest, and this affords the squatter living solitary by the wayside much matter for contemplation when the procession has passed on and all is still again. But life, like everything else in the world, is of various value, according to circumstances; and the solitary squatter who gazes on such a procession probably regards it pretty much as do the "mourners" who come smoking and gossiping in the rear.

The particular scene which we have engraved occurred on the road between Sydney and Bathurst, near the Weatherboard Inn, a place well known to all pilgrims to the diggings. The deceased was an inn-keeper on the road, and he had to be taken sixteen miles to be buried. The party arrived too late for the interment to take place that day, so the cart was left out in the yard till next morning. It was said that next morning the mourners were too tipsy to follow their dead friend to the grave, and the service was hurried over without them.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1860.

THE CHURCH-RATE QUESTION.

THE recent debate on this subject in the House of Commons would tend rather to show the impossibility of a compromise being come to about it. We had hoped that some measure would be possible providing a substitute for the amount of the rate, and taking away from its abolition the character of a sectarian triumph over the Church. But Wednesday furnished us with a regular stand-up fight on the general question instead; and, as the result was more favourable to supporters of church rates than the last division was, the House of Lords will feel more confident, probably, in throwing out the present bill. It is far too good a subject of agitation, however, to be easily abandoned, and new attempts will therefore be made, in a bittier spirit than ever, to achieve the abolition in due time.

The question has been so often debated that one field day on the subject supplies us with the same set of speeches as another. The friends of church rates have one set of arguments, and their enemies another, each suiting their own party like a uniform. The friends of the rate say that the feeling against them is not wide, and by no means universal even among Dissenters—that, as it is, they are not compulsory, and that in many places they are absolutely necessary. Their enemies rest much on the ill-feeling excited by their mere existence, and urge that the Church could easily find a substitute, or would, in fact, get on better by more thoroughly relying on voluntary efforts. Such were the changes once more rung on Wednesday afternoon. The most original speech was that of Mr. Disraeli, who opposed the abolition as a step towards undue centralisation. But we suspect that this argument was mainly influential in aid of those who already favoured the rate, since centralisation must needs be accepted when necessary to any change, without reference to its abstract character. We must all accept centralisation in some matters, and it is not sufficient objection to anything that it will need the centralising process to bring it about.

We have said already that there seems less likelihood of a compromise in this controversy than there was some time since; but we have also to say that there is little excuse for this state of things. Nobody will pretend that there is anything like the feeling in the country against church rates that there once was—when caricaturists used to exhibit "Mother Church" as seizing poor men's furniture, and when the Tagrags of Mr. Warren's novel made a good thing of church-rate martyrdom. There has been a great increase in the popularity of the Church since then, and it has very much contrived to do whatever good Dissent does without sacrificing its learned and social superiority. The rate can now only be imposed by a fair vote, on a principle (that of majorities) which is accepted in every other matter in public life. Why should its friends and enemies not meet each other halfway? We suppose that in reality the power of a parish to saddle its minority with any payment of an ecclesiastical kind is really hated as a symbol of Church ascendancy, as a sign of the influence which the Church derives from her connection with the State. But it would be more honest to avow this view than to carry it out under the guise of a reform in a matter of detail. Were the Church to fling away anything in compliance with that kind of demand, she would only be acting like the woman hunted by wolves in the German ballad, who gets a temporary respite by throwing one child out of the sledge, and has the pack up again with her in a very few minutes. It is unpardonable, we think, that the leading men pro and con State churches should be making what is, after all, a small question one of such serious antagonism, at a time when (as we have said) the country at large is ready to agree to compromises on most subjects where the parties are tolerably fairly matched. The Church can sacrifice a convenience, but she ought not to be asked to sacrifice a principle; and it is the way in which church-rate abolition is argued for that alarms her friends.

At the same time, we think that those friends may be fairly asked to take the initiative now in making the compromise

which we want to see. There is a good deal to be said for Lord John Russell's view, for the simple reason that, when opposition to anything has reached a certain height, it is time to abolish or modify it; for then a new series of questions comes up. The mischief of retaining the institution, whatever it is, against opposition, may outweigh its real advantages, and a statesman has to deal with facts. Is the right to levy church rates, under existing conditions, worth the agitation involved? If so, fight away. If not, propose a plan which shall conciliate your opponents without sacrificing your dignity. It is easy to be ultra on either side of such a question; but it is not so easy to find a point of practical action from which you can do justice to both sides. The present Government evidently thinks so; for it proposes no such plan, and supports the measure of a private member for overthrowing the whole rate system without mercy or tenderness. We do not want to see the abolition, pure and simple, for our own parts; but it is not the place of the enemies, but the friends, of the Church to devise a substitute for it. Unless such is forthcoming soon, it is not difficult to foresee the alternative.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES hunted with the Oxfordshire hounds last week and was presented with the brush.

THE DUCHESS OF KENT gave a juvenile party on Monday night at Frogmore. Her Majesty and the Prince Consort were present, accompanied by Princess Alice, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, Princess Helena, Princess Louisa, and Princess Beatrice.

THE PRINCESS FREDERICK OF THE NETHERLANDS, and her daughter, Princess Mary, intend, according to the *National Zeitung*, to leave Berlin in a few days, on a visit to the English Court, and then, in compliance with the advice of the physicians, to make a long stay at the Isle of Wight.

LORD WARD has been created Earl of Dudley.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD has been chosen High Steward of the borough of Cambridge, in the room of the late Lord Macaulay.

COUNT WALEWICKI tells all his friends (says the Paris correspondent of the *Express*) that Lord John Russell misrepresented the effect of his communications to Lord Cowley on the Savoy question. He frequently told the English Ambassador that in a given case France must have Savoy.

SIR JOHN WILKE, for twenty-eight years Colonial Chief Justice at the Cape, died on December 13, aged seventy-nine. He was brother to the late Lord Chancellor Truro.

THE HON. W. H. P. DENISON having succeeded to the title of Lord Londesborough by the death of his father, a new election became necessary at Scarborough. The candidates were Mr. Dent (Independent) and Lieutenant Caulfield (Liberal). Mr. Dent won the show of hands. At the close of the poll the numbers were—Dent, 472; Caulfield, 340.

ALL REGIMENTAL COLOURS in future are to bear the crown on the top of the staff, surmounted by the Lion of England. Several regiments have already been supplied with the new colours, the 100th being the first.

MR. ROWLAND HILL, Secretary to the Postmaster-General, is appointed a K.C.B., or Knight Commander of the Bath (civil side).

AN ENGINE-TENDER at Wednesfield Pit, near Wolverhampton, has been committed for manslaughter, his neglect having caused an accident whereby seven men lost their lives.

THE NINTH ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING of the Association for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge will be held on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, at St. Martin's Hall.

MR. H. O'NEIL and Mr. W. C. T. Dobson are the elected Associates of the Royal Academy.

AS A YOUNG LADY was walking in the neighbourhood of Aigburth a few days ago a stray Minié ball struck her dress and perforated a hole in it. The rifleman who fired the shot was not discovered.

THE HEALTH OF MR. BARON WATSON is in a very precarious state. The learned Judge has left London for the benefit of the sea air.

MR. PHILIPS has entered into an engagement with Mr. Harris, of the Princess' Theatre, and will appear at that theatre in the month of March or early in April.

THE FRENCH ACADEMY has elected Lacordaire as successor to the late Alexis de Toqueville.

A REPRINT of the famous first edition of Shakespeare's Plays, printed in 1623 by Isaac Jaggard and Edward Blount, is in preparation by Mr. Booth, of Regent-street. The work is to be line for line and word for word—strictly in accord with the old folio, with facsimiles of the original typographical ornaments, as well as a facsimile of the Droushout portrait on the title-page.

M. FERDINAND DE LESSEPS, who returned to France in company with M. de Thouvenel, the new French Minister of Foreign Affairs, is preparing for the press a brochure, in which he is to explain the actual position of the Isthmus of Suez Canal scheme.

THE WALLS OF PARIS are placarded with the programme of the Great Exposition of Industry which is to take place at Besançon, under the patronage of Prince Napoleon, from June 1 to Sept. 1.

GABRIELDI was married to the daughter of the Marchese Raimondi on the 24th ult. The ceremony took place at the country seat of the latter at Pino, near Como, nobody being present except the family and the witnesses—Count Torro for the young lady, and Valerio, the Governor of Como, for Gabrielidi.

IN ADDITION TO THE LEVEES AND DRAWING-ROOMS ALREADY ANNOUNCED, it is the Queen's intention to hold after Easter two more Levees, two Presentation Drawing-rooms, and a Drawing-room in celebration of her Majesty's birthday.

HONOUR IS BEING PAID TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN BROWN, the hero of Harper's Ferry, in the north of England. A great meeting was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne last week, at which Mr. George Thompson delivered an eloquent address on the life and character of the anti-slavery chief.

THE QUANTITY OF CAPE WINE imported into this country in 1854 was 282,043 gallons; in 1859 it had increased to 797,092 gallons. It is the most valuable export of the colony next to wool.

THE REV. W. PROSSER, Curate of St. Nicholas's Church, Durham, has gone off with a female inmate of the Durham Penitentiary, an institution which Mr. Prosser visited in his clerical character. He was married only a year ago. At Christmas time the young ladies of a Bible class presented him with a writing-case as a mark of esteem.

MILKE, "VICTORIA BALFE has appeared at St. Petersburg in "La Traviata," with great success.

THE PACIFIC STEAM COMPANY OF LIVERPOOL have had the period of their charter extended for twenty-one years. Their fleet in the Pacific consists at present of nine steamers, and three more are being built to go out.

A NOTICE has been issued by the Lisbon Board of Health declaring all the ports of Brazil to be suspected of yellow fever except the port of Para, which continues to be regarded as infected. The port of Bahia is also to be considered as infected with yellow fever.

THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER is alarmingly ill.

THE ESTIMATE NET QUANTITY AND VALUE OF GOLD exported from Australia since May, 1851, to December 31, 1858, is 19,602,640 ounces, of the value of £74,460,094 18s.

DR. WILLIAM AITKEN, who for some years acted as Demonstrator of Anatomy to Professor Allen Thompson, of Glasgow University, has been appointed to one of the chairs of the Army Medical School, which is at present being organised under the superintendence of the War Department of Government.

A MEMORIAL has been placed over the remains of Lady Morgan in the Brompton Cemetery. It consists of a flat slab, supported by six pillars; below is a block of polished white marble, on which is inscribed "Sydney, Lady Morgan," and the date of her death in April last. The time of her birth is not mentioned.

SIR JOHN BOWRING has arrived in Paris, it is supposed, for matters connected with the proposed commercial reform in the tariffs. Sir John acted in 1831-2 as Commissioner in France for the English Government, and at that period made a very minute inquiry into the state of many French manufactures and products.

"THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT," says a journal of Charleroi, "intends to commence very shortly the demolition of the fortifications in the lower part of this town—a measure resolved on some time ago."

MRS. BROWNING has sent over from Florence a volume of political poems for immediate publication.

ALCOHOL (says Liebig) is a bill drawn on the workman's health, which he is incessantly compelled to renew, as he has not the funds to meet it. The bankruptcy of the body is, accordingly, the inevitable result.

VOLUNTEER CORPS are being raised in Nova Scotia, under the authority of Lord Mulgrave.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES for the ensuing year call for a sum of £12,800,000, to support a force 85,000 strong, men and boys.

M. ROTTWITZ, President of the Danish Council, and Minister of Justice, died of apoplexy on Wednesday evening.

A MAN NAMED RUMNEY perished in a snowdrift in Teesdale last week.

CAPTAIN ASH, of the 10th Madras Native Infantry, committed suicide on Friday week by severing the veins of his left arm.

TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHT persons were committed to gaol throughout the United Kingdom for offences against the game laws during the year ended June 30, 1859.

A MAN NAMED SUTTON, of Beckingham, drank himself to death last week. He drained an eighteen-gallon cask of ale in five days, and on one of these days a pint of brandy.

TRADE appears to be flourishing in Dundee. At a public meeting the other day a Mr. Neish remarked that the mills could give employment to 2000 more hands.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has presented Captain Hermel, of the French vessel *Lusitano*, of Havre, with a telescope, for having rescued the crew of the *Birkenhead*.

THE *Great Eastern* is in charge of Mr. James Bowen, and not Mr. Kelt, as has been stated erroneously.

MR. RUSSELL, the Editor of the *Scotsman*, has been presented with a testimonial consisting of 1600 sovereigns, a silver salver and jug, and a timepiece.

MR. HUTT, M.P. for Gateshead, has accepted the office of Vice-President of the Board of Trade, vacated by the Hon. Mr. Cowper in consequence of his appointment to the Presidency of the Board of Works.

THE *Times*' correspondent at Rome (an Italian gentleman, but a naturalised British subject) has been expelled from that city, although he had just received his *carta di soggiorno*.

GENERAL SCARLETT has been appointed to succeed Sir George Wetherall, who resigns the post of Adjutant-General on the 1st of April. It is reported that Sir George Wetherall will take the command in Ireland on Lord Seaton's retirement.

THE *Univers* is not to reappear in Brussels after all; but is, for a time at least, extinguished.

THE AUSTRALIAN PAPERS say that frequent cases of leprosy occur amongst the Chinese—so much so that the general management of the Chinese population must soon be brought under the notice of the Legislature.

THE PRINCE OF ORANGE visited Woolwich Arsenal on Tuesday.

THE *Hull Advertiser* has the following advertisement:—"Wanted to borrow £500 on a manuscript poem, the estimated value of which is £10,000."

THE MUSEUM attached to the Royal Engineer establishment at Chatham has just been enriched by a number of very interesting specimens of firearms of all descriptions captured in China.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE whips are zealously at work; members are hurrying with hot haste to town; the clubs are getting full; and everywhere there are symptoms of a coming struggle. The *casus belli* is to be the French treaty; the cry, that it involves a tax upon the poor and the middle classes for the benefit of the rich. The *Saturday Review* of last week said that the Catholic members intend as one man to oppose the Government. The *Times* declared on Monday that there was no truth in this assertion. Who shall decide when such doctors disagree? My own opinion is that, if war come, the Irish Roman Catholics will vote with the Opposition; but, notwithstanding all that may be said, I doubt whether Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli will seriously go in for office; and, if they should, I doubt still more whether they will succeed. The Government whips are in excellent spirits, and speak confidently about the result if a battle should be tried. At present the treaty in its entirety is not before the House; nor is the budget. The epitome of the treaty which appeared in the Belgian papers is confessedly only an epitome, and is said to be incorrect. The budget, of course, nobody outside the Cabinet knows anything about. The rumours flying in every direction as to what is to be taxed and what is to be untaxed are not worth a moment's attention.

Meanwhile, whilst I am writing the Chancellor of the Exchequer is hors-de-combat. His disease is a serious congestion of the lungs, accompanied by disorder in the liver. The right honourable gentleman is said to have caught a severe cold on leaving the Cabinet meeting last week. Energetic measures have been taken by Dr. Ferguson to relieve the lungs, and it is understood that he has succeeded; but whether the right honourable gentleman will be sufficiently recovered on Friday to go to the House and make a four-hours' speech is at this moment very doubtful. That he ought not to make the attempt, I think, is the general opinion of his friends; but so great is the public anxiety for the budget, and it is, in every way, so desirable that it should be presented as speedily as possible, that, if he can stand upon his legs and make himself heard, he will certainly be at his post on the day fixed. But on this subject nothing more need be said, as all doubts will have been resolved before your day of publication.

On Tuesday night I "lounged" for an hour or two in the House of Lords. What a gorgeous chamber it is! A deal too gorgeous in my opinion; for the blaze of its splendour almost extinguishes the plain-looking gentlemen who carry on business there. Really, for their own sakes, the Peers ought to wear their robes when they assemble, for nothing can be more anomalous, and I may say ridiculous, than the sight of thirty or forty men in dark surtouts or loose frocks in the midst of all this blaze of colour and gold. On entering the House the first person that I saw was Lord Palmerston. The House of Commons was up early, and his Lordship had gone to listen to a debate upon the Savoy question. He was leaning against one of the gigantic heraldic figures with which Sir Charles Barry has adorned the House—supporting the British lion, in fact. His Lordship was chatting with Lord Granville. The speaker at the time was his Grace of Newcastle: I knew him by his sandy beard. This beard of his Grace was cultivated in the Crimea, and, though it has been clipped and trimmed, it is still a formidable affair. When his Grace sat down Lord Brougham arose. It was not, however, the Brougham whom I knew many years ago; not the Harry Brougham who threw that terrible bolt at the head of Canning which made the honourable gentleman jump out of his seat; nor the Brougham who, in "32," giving effect to the peroration of his speech on the Reform Bill, dropped on one knee, and besought their Lordships to pass the bill. There was the same gaunt, loose frame, the same prominent nose and harsh features, and the same rough, unkempt head; but all else was different. His voice is husky and weak, his eye is dulled, and instead of eloquence there is now only garrulity. I was glad when his Lordship sat down and Lord Derby arose. I am singularly unfortunate in my opportunities of hearing the great Conservative leader, or else his Lordship has been vastly over-rated as a speaker. I have often listened to him, but never without disappointment; and on this occasion I was specially disappointed. His language was incorrect; he frequently hesitated and stammered for a word; and, after working through a long parenthesis with some difficulty, he very nearly lost the thread of his argument. On the following morning I was curious to see the report of his speech. I found it smooth and flowing enough; but it was clearly not Lord Derby's speech as he delivered it, but Lord Derby's speech as the reporters thought he ought to have delivered it. But all our great Parliamentary speakers are deeply indebted to the reporters' gallery. I don't know a single speaker whose speeches could really be literally reported. After Lord Derby a thin, pale, grey-headed man, with hair cropped quite close, arose on the Government side. This, I was told, was Lord Stratford de Redcliffe; and, as he is a notable person, I stopped a few minutes to listen. But I could not stop long; for, in the first place, I could hear but little; and, secondly, what I did hear was so painfully delivered that I was really glad to escape from the sight of so much suffering.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A pretty little comedy, written in blank verse, which is even without being very good, never rising into poetry, and but occasionally descending into bathos, has been produced at the PRINCESSES. Its title is "Caught in a Trap," its author Mr. Holl, many years an actor at the Haymarket, and a gentleman much respected in literary and dramatic circles.

Mr. Dillon is playing at DRURY LANE.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

The first picture exhibition opened this year was that of the Society of Female Artists; and to this, on the principle of *place and dames*, no one could object. But of the old institutions the British has, as usual, been the earliest to invite the public, and its galleries were filled last Saturday with the usual crowd of painters and picture dealers, connoisseurs, and critics (to be the one it is not necessary in either case to be the other), hereditary governors, life governors, subscribers, and the various persons of fashion, talent, or notoriety of some kind, who make a point of being present at every private view. It has been said of this exhibition for we do not know how many years past, that the pictures are somewhat below the average in merit. The remark need not be repeated on the present occasion; but although the works exhibited do not, on the whole, fall below the average of the last few years, they unfortunately do not rise above it. It must be remembered, however, that the British Institution is to the Academy very much what in the old days of Mr. Lumley, and the still older days of Mr. Laporte, the operatic season before Easter used to be to the operatic season of the fashionable months. The great singers, if they sung at all (which, if history is to be believed, they seldom did), were not expected to sing their best; and in the same way at the British Institution the great artists either do not exhibit, or, if they do, put forward faint specimens of what they are really capable of producing. We think how industrious a painter must be to send to the British Institution, when soon afterwards he will have to send to the Society of British Artists, and after that to the Academy, to say nothing of the Portland Gallery, to which many of the young and enterprising members of the profession contribute, in addition to the three other exhibitions named. No one can exhibit at so many different localities without occasionally repeating himself; and our artists do more than this, for they repeat themselves over and over again to such an extent that to many of them the painting of a new picture must scarcely be more trouble than the copying of his manuscript would be to an author, if authors ever took the trouble to copy their manuscripts at all. Mr. Philip went to Spain and has painted Spanish pictures ever since. Mr. Andsell went to Spain, and since his return has also confined himself exclusively to Spanish subjects. Unfortunately, an author cannot do anything of this kind. If he goes to Spain, he may write about the country for a few months; but if he ventures to collect his articles into a volume half the press will attack him for not having filled his book with entirely new matter, while the other half will wonder how he ventured insolently to republish the old.

There are artists, however, who have lived all their lives on little boys, or on girls, with a particular sentimental look about the eyes, who have even grown fat upon fruit, game, and fowls of various kinds, or who have exchanged the same landscape, with the same trees, the same fields, and the same cows grazing in them eight or ten times every year for fifty or a hundred pounds. An artist has only to paint one successful picture and he may paint and repaint it all his life. If he be a man of conscience, having some sort of regard for his art, he may paint two; but this, as numerous examples prove, is by no means necessary. It is true that a certain number of painters wish to change this system of routine, and are constantly looking out for fresh subjects, but they are for the most part heretics, and given to extremes of all kinds. We wish, nevertheless, that they were better represented at the British Institution, where conventionality abounds, and where few artists seem to have cared to invent anything new when they have been able to copy with ease some previous work of their own or of their neighbours. Fancy Mr. John Gilbert, one of the worst malefactors of the kind in question, finding nothing better for the exercise of his undoubted skill than the eternal scene between Petruchio and the servant in "The Taming of the Shrew." Fancy him, too, painting such a figure as his "Sancho Panza," who is supposed to be uttering the celebrated reflection (well known to artists), "This master of mine is mad enough to be tied in his bed, and, in truth, I come very little behind him—say, *I am madder than he, since I follow and serve him.*" We simply see a man in the costume popularly attributed to Sancho Panza, who may be reflecting, and perhaps is soliloquising; but there is nothing in the picture to show that Mr. Gilbert understands the significance of the observation we have italicised, which is one of the most suggestive passages in "Don Quixote." Sancho Panza knows, or thinks he knows, that his master is mad; but even the prosaic man on his donkey cannot help following the earnest enthusiast to whatever wildness his enthusiasm may lead him. This idea should, somehow or other, be illustrated by the artist, or the artist should not touch the subject, which, like many other subjects for pictures, is not at all pictorial, but purely philosophical.

Several of our contemporaries seem to be of opinion that the "gem" of the collection (the hackneyed expression may be pardoned in this case in consideration of a certain appropriateness) is a very small and exquisitely-finished domestic subject by G. Smith, called in the catalogue "Fondly Gazing." A mother is "gazing" on her infant child, who is fast asleep on a well-painted bed, covered with a marvellously-painted counterpane. The baby looks to us like a wax doll (but we believe babies have a wax-doll look when sleeping); the mother's countenance is quite without expression; and altogether the picture has just that sort of merit which belongs to the most careful, minutely-finished representations of still-life. It is not necessary, perhaps, that a mother should watch a sleeping child—if it happen to be in good health—with anything like anxiety, but there ought to be something like contemplation in the look, and certainly the mother in Mr. G. Smith's picture is not "fondly gazing."

A work of far greater merit, by an artist who, we believe, is very little known, is Mr. T. P. Hall's "Criticism." We called attention last year to a curious picture exhibited at the Society of British Artists in which the disastrous influence of just criticism upon the fortunes of pretentious artists was shown, together with its beneficial effects as regards purchasers. A rich amateur was represented entering a studio with a newspaper in his hand, and it was understood that he would have bought a certain work of art from the proprietor of the studio but for some adverse remarks which had appeared in the journal. The imaginary picture might have been bad, and the imaginary criticism might have been true; both suppositions were possible, but how could they have occurred to the artist whose infatuation was sufficiently indicated by the "Prometheus Vincit" (himself Prometheus) lying on his case? Mr. T. P. Hall has a far better notion of comedy. He shows us a couple of female servants and a boy, half page half shoe-black, criticising a picture with sublime airs of connoisseurship, while the author of the work is concealed behind the door laughing at their remarks. A good painter can always do this, that is to say, he can afford to laugh at the opinions of his inferiors, while a great painter can do more: he can profit by them, as Molière profited by the remarks of the old housekeeper to whom he read his comedies. If Mr. Hall's picture is intended to have a symbolical as well as a positive meaning, we accept the double signification. Critics are often the servants of artists, and we are willing to serve Mr. Hall by calling attention to the individuality which he has given to his three domestics and to the general humour of the design.

Mr. L. Haghe, in his "St. Jacques, Antwerp," gives a very confused representation of a procession issuing from a shrine, of which the columns on each side would no more support the roof than those of Gaza would have supported the temple after Sampson had begun to pull them down. Mr. Haghe's other pictures—"The Interior of the Church of St. Gomar, at Sierre," and "The Interior of the Church of St. Miniato at Florence"—are, however, in his usual admirable style; especially the latter, in which the body of the church is enveloped in darkness, the altar being alone illuminated.

One of the few historical pictures in the gallery is Mr. Lucy's "Parting of Lord and Lady William Russell." The subject was a difficult one as understood by the artist, who has aimed at showing Lady Russell "governing her emotion so as not to add to his deep distress more pain to the separation. Thus they parted," continues the narrative, "not with sobs and tears, but with a silence far more eloquent, each endeavouring to conceal a grief too great to be expressed." This eloquent silence cannot be easily expressed on canvas; and Mr. Lucy ap-

pears to us to have made Lady Russell govern her emotion so well that no emotion is visible on her countenance at all.

Mr. Andsell has contented himself with sending one work—"A Spanish Flower girl"—in which an admirably-painted mule will be remarked. The basket of oranges, too, the flowers—in fact, everything in the picture except the flower-girl herself—are excellent.

Some of the artists who exhibit this year have had sufficient industry to attack subjects in every variety of style; for instance, Mr. Bromley, who has painted "A Brace of Ducks," "Mountain Courtship," "A Box at the Opera," and "The Return from Labour."

Mr. Dicksee contributes two companion-pictures, entitled "Joy" and "Sorrow." In one a pretty, Flemish-looking little girl is holding out joyfully a figure of Punch; in the other the same little girl is seen crying—weeping for her broken Punch, whose nose she holds in her hand, like the claw of a lobster.

Among the seascapes, landscapes, &c., we may mention "The Needle Rocks," near Howth, Dublin, by Mr. E. Hayes—apparently a transcript from nature, and very artistically treated; "Boulogne-sur-Mer, from near the Column," by Mr. H. W. B. Davis, who has represented a newly-mown corn-field with a few French peasants lying down among the sheaves; "Mont Orgueil" (J. Webb), which reminds us of Mont St. Michel, and which, for all we remember to the contrary, may be one of the sea-mountains adjacent; "Westminster Palace from the Thames" (J. Danby), which is not much like Westminster Abbey, nor at all like the Thames, nor like the sunlight, nor like the atmosphere of London. In Mr. Ritchie's "Holiday at Hampstead Heath" the ferns and stones are here and there painted with care, but, on the whole, it is a big, bad picture, conveying no idea of the real beauties of the heath, while recalling all the vulgarity of its ordinary frequenters.

We intended to have called attention to the works of various other artists, but for the present are unable to do so. We cannot, however, conclude without mentioning a large poultry-piece by Mr. W. Duffield, in which the greater part of the picture is occupied by a very effective swan, which is dead, but has evidently been alive, which is more than can be said of the majority of dead poultry that one meets with in pictures.

SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS

We observe that many of our contemporaries take advantage of the opening of this exhibition to publish their views in reference to that great question of the day—the occupation of women. Reasons have been given for turning women into surgeons and gaolers, and it would not be difficult to show that they would make excellent butchers. How tenderly, for instance, they would slaughter lambs! and how irrational it is, on the other hand, to add to the natural ferocity of man by suffering him to pursue a calling which is nothing if not ferocious! But we have no intention of entering fully into this subject. We will content ourselves with remarking that, as a general rule, the occupations which a woman can follow without leaving her home appear to possess advantages over those which must necessarily take her away from it; and that, as most branches of painting may be cultivated, and are cultivated, under the former conditions, every encouragement should be given to female artists. This encouragement, however, is not quite so much needed as might be imagined in the case of the female artists who have formed themselves into a society, for their paintings are sufficiently interesting to attract those who care only for art, and never trouble themselves at all about the social question which the exhibition naturally suggests. The Exhibition of Female Artists for the present year is, in some respects, an improvement on the last, and in the works of the most distinguished members a decided progress may be observed.

Mrs. Elizabeth Murray, who since the exhibition of last year has made her appearance in the character of an author, and has narrated in detail the wanderings which have suggested to her so many effective pictures, contributes some interesting scenes and figures from Tenerife. As usual, the works of this artist are rich in colour, and sometimes showy even to gaudiness; and as the subjects are novel, and sufficiently striking, they attract considerable attention. The "Charcoal-burners" is a clever sketch, of which the whole merit lies in the treatment of the two principal figures. "Adoration and Admiration" represents the interior of a chapel, in which one of the beauties of Tenerife is seen at the confessional, about (we are sure) to receive absolution and even a supererogatory blessing from a young monk, on whose heart the interesting devotee has evidently made a profound impression. In "The Island Beauty" the artist does not aim at the dramatic, and is more natural and more successful. "The Island Beauty" is simply a life-size portrait of "Gregoria Carrilla"—a magnificent head of the Spanish-Moorish type, the hair luxuriant, glossy, and purple in its blackness; the complexion mellow, with rich southern hues; and the eyes brilliant and full of passion. "Resignation" is a pleasing sketch of a Moorish young lady, whose appearance does not at all remind us of the ill-clad, uncultivated hordes recently expelled from Tetuan.

Mrs. Robinson Blaine, who has also been to the East, has studied the land of rich glowing colour to some purpose. Mrs. Blaine's sketches in oil—"The Ruins of Carnac" and "Bedouin and Camels, with Mount Hor in the Distance"—have a truthful, characteristic look, and the camels in particular are excellently drawn.

Mrs. Oliver's "View of Pomerne" is an agreeable scene on the Moselle, freely and cleverly executed, and evincing considerable artistic feeling. The little chapel on the river-side is neatly drawn, and forms an effective object in the picture. The grey sky, too, is very happily rendered.

Mrs. Margaret Robinson paints with much skill in the well-known book-illustrating style, so much in favour with a certain class of artists who turn to "The Vicar of Wakefield" for their subjects (their acquaintance with English literature being apparently confined to that work) as naturally as the modern artists of Belgium turn to the Lives of the Painters, or Horace Vernet to the battles of Napoleon. Mrs. Robinson has represented "Olivia and Sophia in their Sunday Finery," in which the Sunday finery is especially remarkable, the lace in particular being marvellously painted. There is not much nature in the figures, which nevertheless are very creditable studies. On the whole the picture testifies to the dexterity of the artist, but, removed from the gallery in which it is now exhibited, would scarcely be considered a remarkable production.

Miss Florence Peel, whose studies of ferns and ivy were much admired last season, exhibits this year some magnolias, which are evidently painted from nature, and which are executed very truthfully and with exquisite delicacy. The other studies of flowers by the same lady are equally remarkable for their fidelity to nature.

Several ladies have painted with more or less success, but on the whole very satisfactorily, flowers, plants, fruit, birds, and various groups of still life. Many of these studies are full of the nicest observation, and, after comparing them with the more ambitious works exhibited, it is impossible not to see that it is in the humbler branch of art that our female painters are most fortunate. This may be explained in various ways, according to the taste and social opinions of the beholder; but up to the present time the ladies of England have somehow failed to distinguish themselves in historical painting (which might also be said of the men), in landscapes, or even in *genre* subjects. Does this arise from a natural inability on the part of women to conceive and execute great pictures, or only from their hitherto defective artistic education? It appears to us that, at all events, as regards many important branches of art, the latter explanation is the only one admissible. We need hardly lay stress on the well-known fact that without special studies, indefatigably pursued, no excellence in any branch of art can be attained, and to these studies most of the ladies who at present appear before the world as painters must until quite recently have been strangers. It is easy enough to form a society of female artists, and afterwards to open an exhibition consisting entirely of their works, but it is clear that some of the fair "artists" are just as much entitled to any other appellation—like the distressed sempstresses mentioned by Mr. Carlyle, who, being unable to sew, might with equal propriety have called themselves "distressed astronomers." This only amounts to saying that up to the present time it has not been the custom in England for ladies to devote themselves seriously to artistic

pursuits, which applies equally to those who have painted only as amateurs and those who have gained their living by producing flower-pieces, costume-figures, and miniatures in a thoroughly conventional style. But it has yet to be shown that with the same advantages, or rather with the same indispensable training as men, they would not attain the same success in certain kinds of painting that they have already attained in novel-writing, poetry, and the belles-lettres generally. The example of Rosa Bonheur might be quoted to show that women may reach the highest excellence, even in a style of painting which would appear to be the especial province of men; and, although hitherto there has been only one Rosa Bonheur, we are willing to admit that by that single instance the capacity of woman to paint vigorously and truthfully from nature is established. But, unless all the memoirs of Mdlle. Bonheur is false, that accomplished artist gained much of her experience in schools which most ladies would not care to enter, and which they would not be excused for entering except on condition of afterwards displaying a talent equal to that of Mdlle. Bonheur herself. Joan of Arc saved her country, and the Maid of Saragossa inspired all Spain with her heroism; but, in spite of those glorious precedents, we do not allow young ladies to enter the army, and should be slightly disgusted if we were to see one appear at a fancy ball in a military costume. So in the matter of art, though we cannot regret anything that has aided the development of Rosa Bonheur's genius, we should not like to hear of our female painters visiting slaughter-houses in order to study the anatomy of the ox. The objections to the exact study of the human figure by women are still greater, even though it should in due time give us a female historical painter as great in her way as Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell—who has frequented hospitals and dissecting-rooms—is said to be in medicine and surgery. However, we have seen that there are some branches of art in which ladies already excel, and there seems to be no reason why they should not paint beautiful landscapes, for we know from what they have done in literature that women have an exquisite feeling for scenery. Then there is a variety of *genre* subjects which they might be expected to treat with success; and they might almost invent a new style of domestic painting, of which the great merit should consist in the exhibition of character and the expression of emotion—pictures, in short, which should be the pictorial equivalents to their novels. But there are cogent reasons why they should not attempt—nor, above all, seek to qualify themselves for attempting—what is usually considered the highest style of art. They may be reminded that women have never succeeded in the severer styles of literature (though we have a few inferior tragedies and romantic but unvarnished histories by female hands); and surely, if they confine themselves to the representation of the beauties of nature, and of all that is graceful in human life and touching in human emotion, they will have a sufficient field for the exercise of their delicate talents without attacking subjects which are perhaps beyond their grasp, and certainly quite out of their province.

We are reminded that a large number of the members of the Society of Female Artists have contributed copies from the old masters, and that, with the exception of one by Mrs. Hay (an admirable reproduction of a "Holy Family" by Andrea del Sarto), all, or nearly all, are absolutely without merit. This is another indication of the general inability of our female artists to treat—even at secondhand—those subjects which have hitherto never been painted with success except by men.

In conclusion, we hope, in spite of the scanty praise we have bestowed on some of the works, and the objections we have felt called upon to make to others, that we have said enough in favour of the exhibition, generally, to induce many of our readers to visit it. At the present time, when so much nonsense, and a certain amount of sense, is being written about the employment of women, it is interesting to notice the laudable, and frequently successful, efforts that are being made by a number of English ladies to attain eminence in a profession which women of taste and talent may follow with honour, pleasure, and profit.

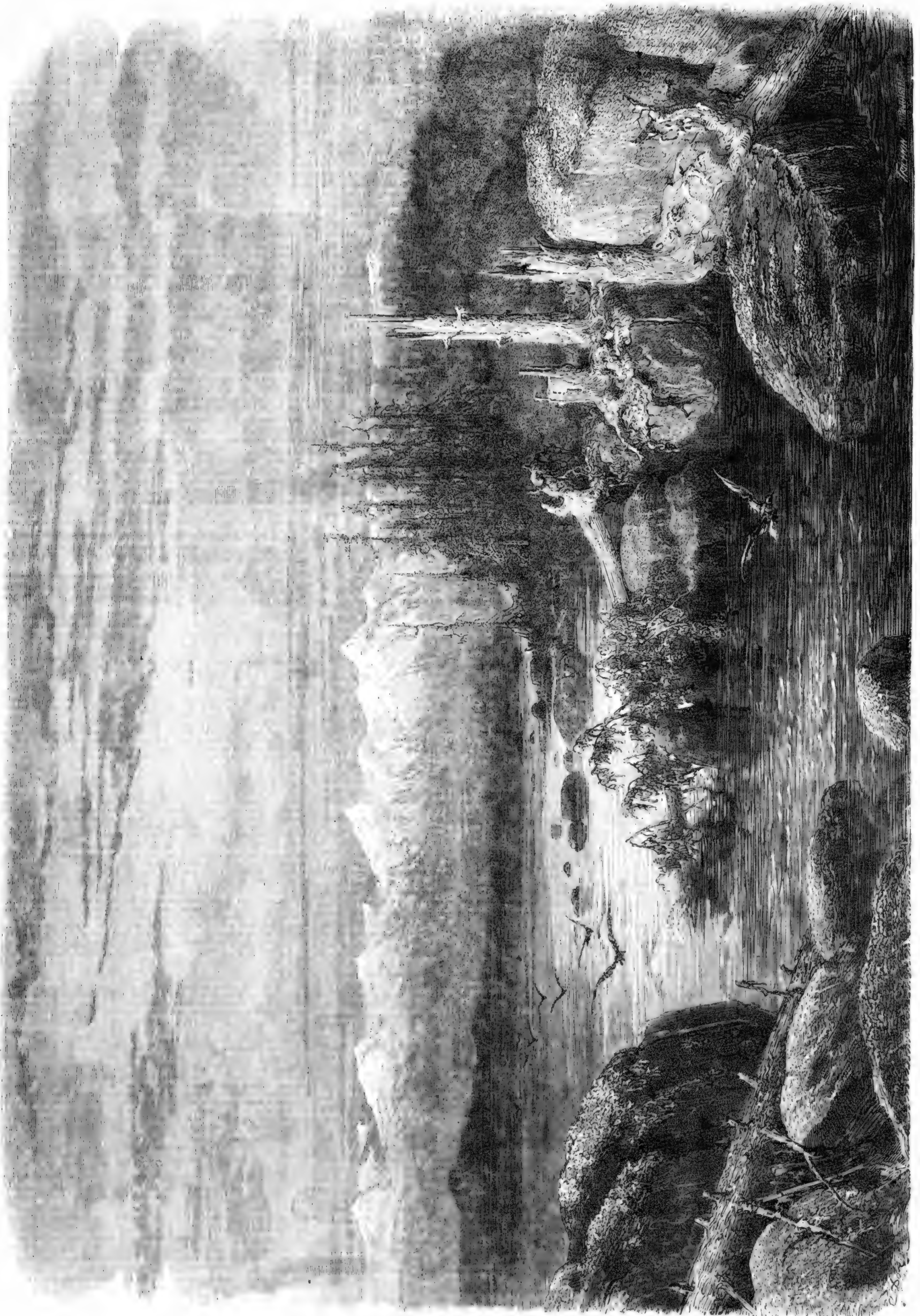
AN AMERICAN DIFFICULTY.—An account of a fight at a hotel in New Orleans is given in an American paper. Colonel Peck, a member of the Legislature, had quarrelled with a Mr. Harris. The two met at New Orleans, and Harris, seeing his enemy, fired a shot at him. Next day Peck confronted Harris as he was paying his hotel bill. Account—very slightly, but it appears that after a few words they both drew at about the same moment. "Harris retreated, and finally dodged into the door of the small bar and cigar room, and, shielding himself partly behind the glass door, looked out and fired from time to time. Peck, while Harris retreated, stepped out from the office and fired several shots, three of which took effect upon the person of Harris, and was in that position when he was fired at from the room. Exhausting his pistol, Peck drew his bowie-knife, and advanced deliberately toward the door of the cigar-shop, from behind which Harris had shot, and seemed to hesitate a moment whether to enter. The next moment Harris fired at the open doorway, the ball of his pistol entering the side or jamb of the door. After firing the last shot Harris ran back just as Peck entered the door, and got over the marble counter of the bar, and into a corner, among the bottles. Peck, following, sprang over after him, and, grasping hold of him, inflicted upon his person four stab-wounds with the bowie-knife. Harris was picked up and placed on the floor for a few moments, and then carried to his room near by, expiring almost the moment he was placed upon his bed." Peck was arrested.

CLIVER CAPTURE.—On the 27th of last August one of the Messrs. Gibbons, ironmasters, of Bilston, after taking from the Dudley Bank wages necessary to pay the workpeople of the firm at Highfields and Millfields, respectively, instructed one of his men to meet him on the road and take to the last-named works the cash required there. The fact was known to a clerk at the Millfields works, named Swatman, who intercepted the messenger, obtained the money from him, and sent him on an errand in another direction. This money amounted to £350. With it and other moneys belonging to his employers he decamped, and got clear away. All efforts to find him were fruitless until, about the 22nd of September, the authorities learned that he had sailed on the 8th of that month to Melbourne, in the steamer *Monarch*, from Plymouth. The lateness at which the information was obtained left only one means open whereby there was a chance of arresting him even at the antipodes. The Messrs. Gibbons applied to Colonel Hogg, the chief constable of Staffordshire, to find them an efficient officer to go overland to Melbourne. The Colonel selected a member of the corps who was a man of good education and gentlemanly manners. This officer left England a fortnight later than the *Monarch*, but he reached Melbourne a few days before the vessel arrived in that port; and, although he did not know the fugitive, he arrested the right man, obtained possession of the greater portion of the money that had been stolen, and is now on his way home with the thief in custody. The expenses of the overland route and the return passage will be more than £150.

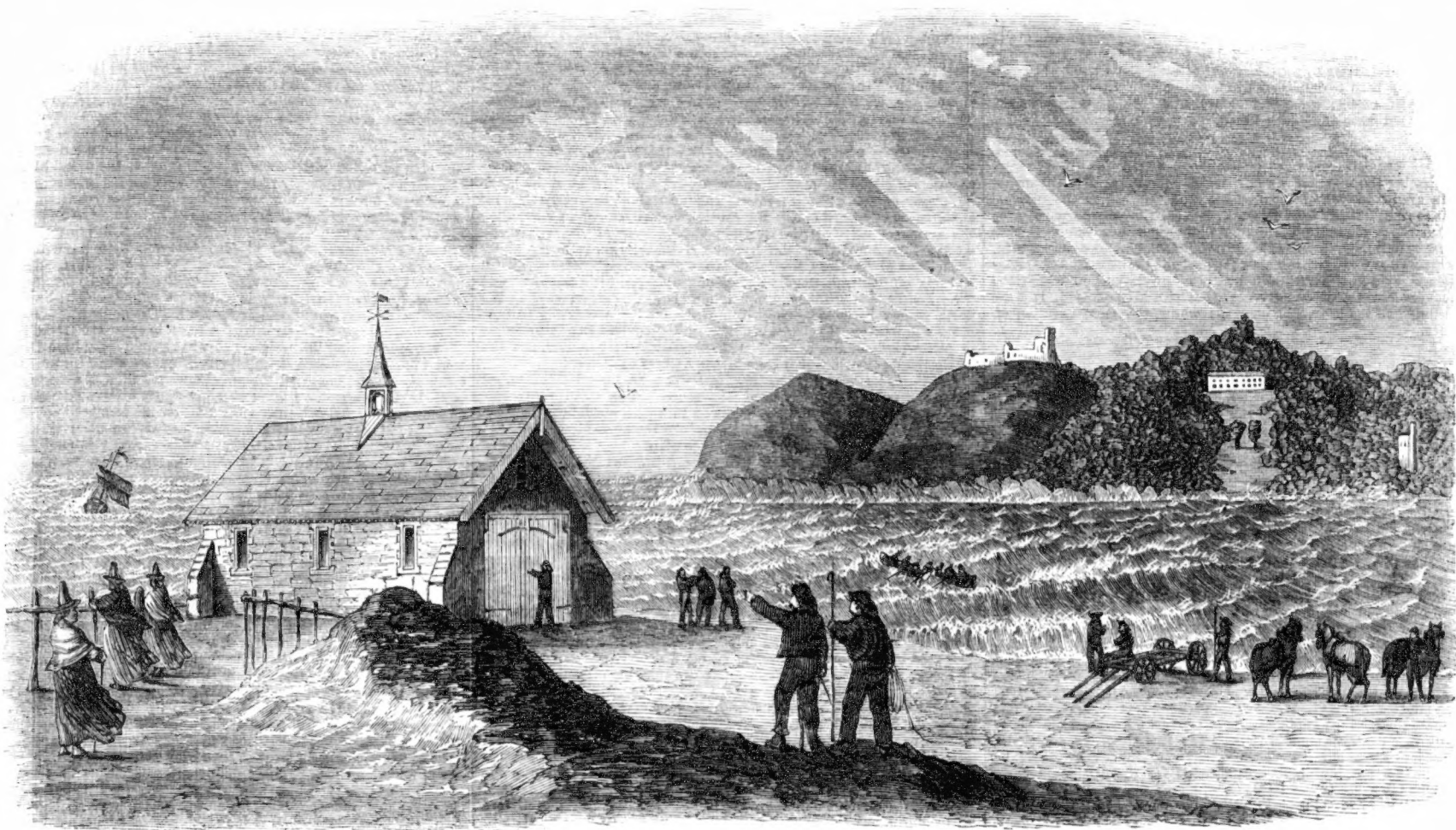
BELEAGUE AND THE ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY.—On Wednesday week the impending Anglo-French commercial treaty was made the object of an interpellation in the Belgian Chamber of Deputies. The Foreign Minister replied that he had no knowledge whatever of the contents of the treaty, but that the Belgian Government was resolved, in case the interests of Belgium were affected by it, to take such steps as would be approved of. It is to be observed that Belgium is the country which hitherto has imported the largest amount of goods into France. Switzerland stands next, and then only follows this country.

THE VALLEY OF THE RHONE.

Our Engraving is from a sketch made during the first days of spring. Probably no river in Europe runs its course through grander scenery than the Rhone. In its rapid waters are reflected the dark forests of pine fringing the sides of the lofty mountains that rise on each bank. The frosted pinnacles of the Alps send down their countless cascades to feed its bosom until the number of its tributaries become so great that the valley through which it flows lies submerged beneath its swollen waters. A scene like that depicted in our illustration follows the melting of the snow. The boiling torrents that have left upriver trees and huge masses of displaced rock to mark their turbulent course, now lie sleeping in the river's bed. The sun is sinking lower and lower behind the hoary peaks of the distant mountains, tipping them with gold; the sky is of an intense blue, approaching to purple, except just above the summits of the hills, where it blends into an orange green; the dark shades in the valley are becoming more and more indistinct in the rising mist. A solemn stillness pervades everything, only broken here and there by the splash of a detached mass of earth as it falls in the water, or the uncertain tinkling of some hill-perched convent bell.



VALLEY OF THE RIONE.



LIFE-BOAT STATION, CARMARTHEN BAY.

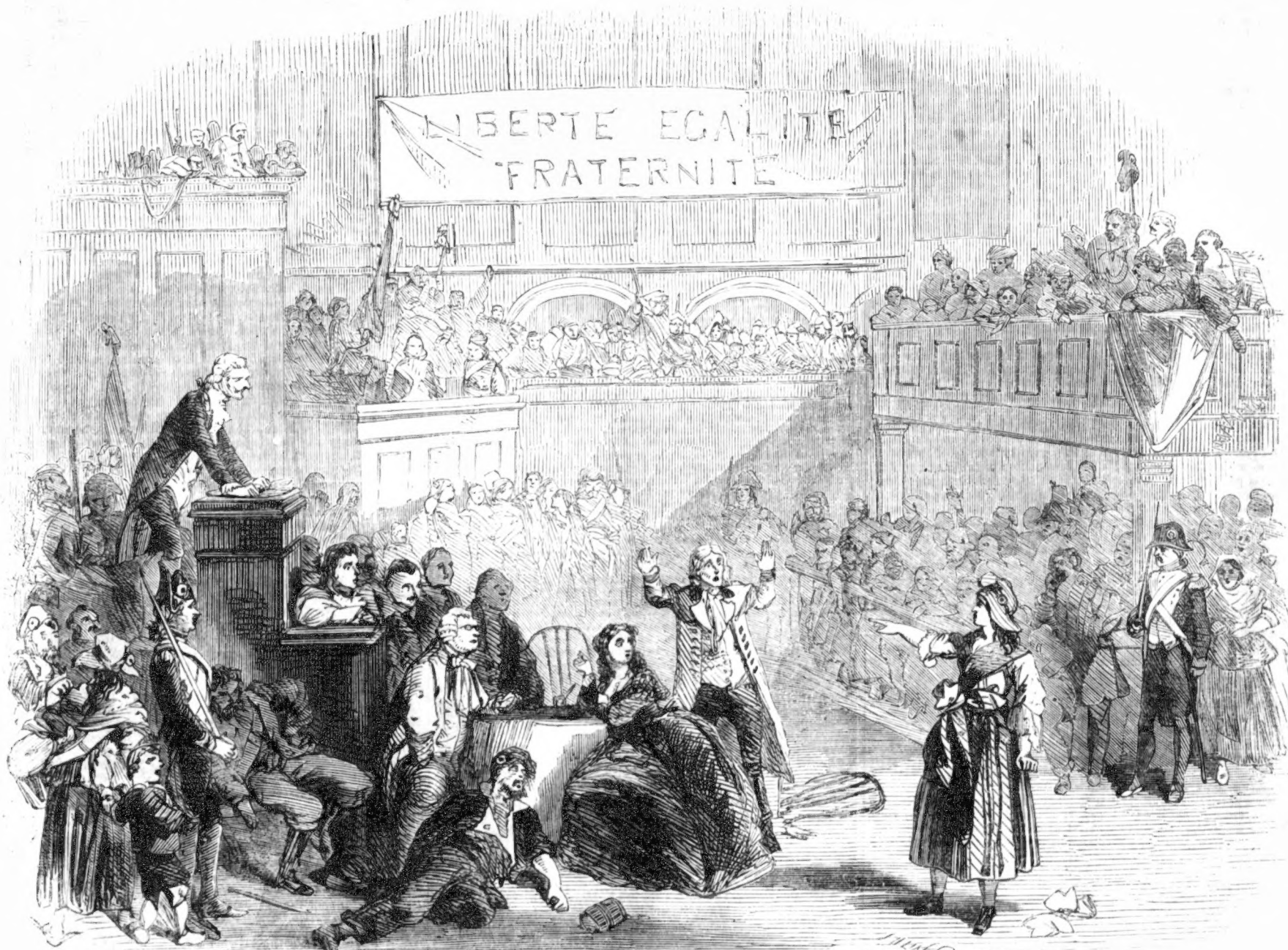
THE CARMARTHEN BAY LIFE-BOAT STATION.

The Royal National Life-boat Institution sent on the 24th ult. one of its best life-boats to the Ferryside, which is in the neighbourhood of the Cefn Sidan Sands, in Carmarthen Bay. These sands have been fatal to scores of ships. Carmarthen Bay being exposed to the full force of the south-westerly gales, and there being a considerable trade at the different ports within it, wrecks frequently take place on its

shores. Life-boats have been stationed for some years past at Tenby, on the west side of the Bay, and at the floating light, near Llanelly, at its east side, the former of which has been the means of saving many crews; but the want of a life-boat was still felt in the central part of Carmarthen Bay. The life-boat now stationed there is thirty feet long, rows six oars, and combines all the latest improvements. A transporting-carriage accompanied the boat, and both were conveyed to Car-

marthen free of charge by the Great Western and South Wales Railway Companies. The life-boat house is one of the most commodious and substantial buildings of its kind on the coasts of the United Kingdom.

It may not be inappropriate to remark on the important operations of the Royal National Life-boat Institution during the past year alone. In that brief period its life-boats were instrumental in saving 218 lives.



SCENE FROM "A TALE OF TWO CITIES," AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE.

On these occasions, and on those of quarterly exercise, the boats were manned probably by no less than 4000 persons. Nearly all the services took place in stormy weather and heavy seas, and often the dark hours of the night. During the same period the institution incurred an expense of £10,940 8s. 9d., and granted £1108 15s. 3d. as rewards for saving as many as 498 lives from shipwreck on our coasts. This good work has, however, only been accomplished by incurring liabilities to the extent of upwards of £3000; a debt which we trust the generosity of the public will not leave unliquidated long.

SCENE FROM "A TALE OF TWO CITIES."

In adapting the "Tale of Two Cities" for the stage, Mr. Taylor has liberally availed himself of the dramatic scenes in which the original work is so rich. It has been objected, indeed, that there has been too much anxiety to retain in the drama whatever struck the reader as picturesque in the novel. But, whatever scene might have been spared, that which we engrave—the Trial of Darnay, and the exertions of Doctor Manette to save him, overthrown by those revelations in which the Evremonts figure so detestably—could not have been omitted. It is the most effective in the book, and, upon the whole, the most effective on the stage.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. LESLIE'S "Romance," produced at the Royal English Opera last week, and to be followed next week or the week afterwards by Mr. Wallace's "Lurline," has to us the effect of a "carpenter's scene," which, as our readers may be aware, is intended to occupy and, if possible, amuse an audience while some really important artistic display is being prepared. "Romance" is a trifle of the most trifling kind, and the music is not distinguished by that finish which can alone give interest and a certain kind of beauty to what is essentially frivolous. Mr. Leslie has added to his reputation by producing "Romance," because previously the outside public were not aware that he could produce an opera at all; but he must write something better in every respect than this, his first operative work, before he can be ranked with composers of any eminence. On the other hand, it may be said that, as a general rule, no man succeeds with a first work except a man of genius; or a man who can say all he will ever have to say at one breath; and the very unevenness of "Romance" seems to show that Mr. Leslie is capable of better things. The music, however, is, on the whole, weak; the melodies, though often redeemed by their treatment from the charge of being strikingly commonplace, are lamentably deficient in originality; the instrumentation is laboured without being effective; and the most successful pieces in the opera are two *hors d'œuvre*, a minuet and a part-song, which might have been omitted without any injury to the work in a dramatic point of view. The part-song, we must add, gives fresh evidence of the skill and good taste already exhibited by Mr. Leslie in a number of his compositions for the celebrated choir with which his name is associated.

For the libretto of "Romance" the composer has been indebted to Mr. Palgrave Simpson, who has produced one of the neatest little books containing some of the best-written songs that can be found in the whole repertoire of modern opera. The subject is or is not taken from a French vaudeville called "Schubry." We have seen it stated that such is the case, and we have also heard it denied; and, considering on what a slight basis the whole piece is founded, attach no importance to the question. The main incident of the plot is the assumption of a highwayman's name and dress by a lover who finds that he can only gain his mistress's heart by appealing to a certain passion for romance which forms the salient point in her character. This lover is one Captain Wildlove (Mr. Harrison), who, until near the conclusion of the play, is only known as the "Stranger," and who is believed by his innamorata, Lady Araminta Arabesque, to be no other than the celebrated Dick Turpin. The part of Lady Araminta is played by Miss Louisa Pyne, who, with the exception of a brilliant rondo finale, has nothing to sing in the florid style in which she is always so remarkably successful. Puddlemist, the Mayor of York, who is constantly pursuing, and being pursued by, Turpin, is represented by Mr. Honey.

The programme of the last of the Monday Popular Concerts was so attractive that only two-thirds of those who applied for admission could be accommodated in the hall, which nevertheless holds upwards of two thousand persons. The most remarkable pieces performed were Mozart's quintet in A, received with so much enthusiasm at the Mozart Concert a few weeks since, Weber's sonata in E flat for pianoforte and clarinet, and Dussek's pianoforte sonata, written as if in reply to Wolf's "Ne Plus Ultra," and named "Plus Ultra." The pieces for stringed instruments were on this occasion led by Herr Molique, and the pianist was Miss Arabella Goddard, who was never more warmly applauded than in the "Plus Ultra"—which in the matter of length does indeed overstep the limits—and after each movement of the beautiful sonata by Weber. In the last-named sonata and in the quintet the clarinet part was played by Mr. Lazarus. In the hands of such able artists the execution was of course all that could be desired, and to speak of it in detail would be superfluous. The singers were Mr. Sims Reeves and Miss Susannah Cole.

At the Sacred Harmonic Society Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang," or "Hymn of Praise," written for a commemorative festival held on the four hundredth anniversary of the invention of printing, was performed in admirable style on Friday, February 3. It was followed by the Dettingen "Te Deum," and attracted one of the largest audiences ever assembled in Exeter Hall. Both works will be repeated on Friday, Feb. 17.

Herr Wagner's concerts at the Italian Opera of Paris appear to have been attended with the amount of success that every one expected. The French critics admit Herr Wagner's great knowledge of orchestral effects, and acknowledge that his instrumentation is brilliant and full of novel combinations, but they add that these combinations are sometimes more novel than pleasing; and, while praising certain portions of his operas which are not written in accordance with his celebrated system, they cannot protest too strongly against those in which he stands forth as the exponent of the "Music of the Future," and seem to think that if that is the sort of noise posterity will have to listen to it will be fortunate for our descendants if they are born deaf.

The great concert-room of the metropolis—St. James's Hall—has been occupied several evenings this week by that incomparable prestidigitator, or legerdemainist (or professor of sleight-of-hand), Wiljalba Frikell, who, having no apparatus, properly so called, performs with a few eggs and oranges, a hat, a pocket-handkerchief, and a pistol more marvellous feats than were achieved by his predecessors with the most elaborate contrivances, mechanical, chemical, and electrical. Frikell's manner, which contrasts remarkably with that of the charlatanic Wizard of the North, is excellent, and its simplicity increases considerably the effect even of his most astonishing tricks. He appears, for instance, almost as much surprised as the audience itself when, having decapitated a white pigeon and a black one, he afterwards exhibits what at first appears to be their mangled bodies, when the black pigeon flies away with a white head and the white pigeon with a black one! In short, Frikell is more of an artist than any of the other conjurors of the day, and with less means at his command he performs greater wonders. From an orange he will produce a canary; from an ordinary hat some hundreds of pint pots; and by merely rubbing his hands he can make myriads of cards, packets of scent, and bou-bons appear, which he at the same time generously distributes to the audience.

THE BELGIAN PAPERS publish a queer document sent by old Prince Metternich to the Austrian Envoy at Florence, and forwarded for the guidance of the Court of Modena, where it is found in the archives. In this despatch, dated Vienna, June 26, 1846, a sharp look-out is recommended against that "notorious adventurer, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte."

THE TOTAL SUM EXPENDED in building, furnishing, lighting, and ventilating the New Palace at Westminster, up to the 31st of December, 1859, was £2,198,099 2s. 11d. This amount includes the cost of the additional site, but does not include the cost of decorating the buildings with fresco paintings and statuary, or current expenses.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

DISGRACEFUL as were the proceedings in this church last week, they were exceeded on Sunday evening. At the morning service little interruption occurred. The Litany service in the afternoon passed off without any violent disturbance, but as the time for the evening service drew near it was apparent that preparations had been made for a riot. By six o'clock the people began to assemble, and when the gates were thrown open at least four thousand people were waiting for admission. The rush was terrific, and the church was densely packed. No sooner had "the congregation" assembled than howling and yelling of the most audacious kind was commenced, and this was continued without cessation until the priests and choristers walked in procession to their accustomed places in front of the altar. Then a perfect storm broke out; cries of "Fire!" were raised, and several of the gaslights were simultaneously turned out. Mr. Churchwarden Thompson, obtaining the assistance of the police, forcibly ejected some of the ringleaders. At the time for reading the lessons the Rev. Edward Stuart, M.A., Incumbent of St. Mary Magdalen, Munster-square, ascended the desk, and was greeted with terrific shouts of "Off, off!" "Puseyite!" and "No Popery!" At this moment, too, a body of men and boys in the north gallery began singing "Rule Britannia," the chorus "Britons never will be slaves" being taken up with tremendous energy by people in other parts of the church. Others mimicked the reader, and the whole congregation was in a state of the highest excitement.

Mr. F. G. Lee was the preacher, and when he ascended the pulpit he was assailed by a hurricane of abuse. The most filthy epithets were applied to him, in addition to recommendations to "Go down!" "Be off!" and "Go to Rome!" He gave for his text the words of Isaiah—"Watchman, what of the night?" but nothing could be heard by those who were within half a dozen yards of the pulpit. The people who had indulged in singing "Rule Britannia" now struck up "We won't go home till morning," upon which Mr. Lee stopped and regarded them with an expression of unspeakable disgust. After a lengthened pause he asked whether he should go on, and received a loud shout in the negative. He exclaimed, "I will!" and then proceeded to defend the conduct of Mr. Bryan King, the Rector; said he had made concessions which had only made the mob worse; denounced the conduct of the people before him as sacrilegious; said that those who made these disturbances were unworthy the name of Englishmen, and argued that Mr. King was acting constitutionally and legally in the course he had adopted. The temper of "the mob," which was the term more than once used by Mr. Lee in speaking of his auditory, was not improved by this address; and they so effectually drowned his voice that, though he spoke for forty minutes, not a word was audible.

At the close of the sermon not fifty people left the church, and there appeared a desire to repeat the scene which was enacted on the previous Sunday evening—of pelting the altar with any articles which could conveniently be hurled against it; but every hassock, cushion, and book had been removed. Being unable to amuse themselves in this way the people sang songs, some of them the d-xology, while fights were going on in every part of the building. The banisters of the reading-desk were broken down, but the altar fortunately escaped. When this state of things had continued about half an hour after the close of the service Mr. Inspector Alison entered the church with a body of police and performed the process of clearing out, an operation which lasted nearly an hour.

A memorial addressed to the Home Secretary is in course of signature by the inhabitants of the parish. They lament the riotous proceedings which have rendered their church so disgracefully notorious, and pray that some steps may be taken to ensure the preservation of peace.

WRECK OF THE "DINAPORE."—This ship, belonging to Mr. W. S. Lindsay, M.P., has been entirely lost on the coast of France. Shortly after leaving Cardiff the ship encountered a fearful gale, with a heavy sea, and sprang a leak. Captain Lilwall, it is supposed, ran for Brest, and unfortunately the ship ran upon the sunken reefs which abound in that part of the coast. Twenty-two men who were in the long-boat have perished.

THE SAN JUAN DIFFICULTY.—The Times, in explaining the present position of the negotiations with America respecting the San Juan dispute, says that, instead of standing out for the Rosario channel and the whole group of islands, as against the Huar channel or none of them, a third channel has been proposed for the boundary line, which will not only evade the two disputed courses, but will leave the Americans in possession of the larger share of the debated territory. In return, America will be asked to give up the whole of a certain coast headland which the forty-ninth parallel now cuts in two. This arrangement would answer the mutual convenience of both countries, while the territory will be so divided that the Americans can make no complaint of their allotment. The Times hopes that so sensible a compromise will terminate the dispute.

THE STADE DUES.—Accounts from Hanover, dated Wednesday, state that England has rejected the offer of Hanover to arrange the redemption of the Stade Dues by separate negotiation, and insists upon a general conference of all parties interested in the question.

ROASTED ALIVE.—At new Orleans a lady, named Franks, went out, leaving two young children in charge of the nurse. The nurse, thinking the children were safe from harm on account of the fireplace being protected by a high fender, which was fastened to the mantelpiece, locked the room in which they were, and went for a walk. One of the children two and a half years old attempted to climb up on the fender for the purpose of taking something off the mantelpiece; in doing so it fell inside between the fender and the fire, and was roasted alive.

DEATH OF A CLERICAL DIGNITARY.—A clergyman of the Church of England named Pierson, formerly holding a benefice in Yorkshire, was burned to death at Maryborough a short time since. The unfortunate man had forfeited his position at home, it appears, by his intemperate habits, and was digging at Maryborough for his subsistence. His habits here were of a dissipated nature; and, having gone to bed one night after drinking to excess, the curtains caught fire, and before he could be rescued he was so severely burnt that he was dragged out quite dead.—*Melbourne Herald*.

COTTON-GROWING IN INDIA.—The exports of cotton from Bombay to Europe last year were 623,603½ bales, being an increase over the preceding year's exports of 268,352 bales. The exports to China up to the end of 1859 were 161,916, which also shows an increase over the exports of 1858 of 59,872 bales. Thus, the total exports of cotton was 785,521½ bales against 457,297 for 1858. Taking each bale at 380lb., and supposing—a low estimate—the price of Surat cotton at Liverpool to be 4d. a pound, this represents a cotton export trade of five millions sterling.

AUSTRIA AND THE CAUSE OF CRIMOLINE.—The *Perseranza* publishes a proclamation of Baron Culoz, Imperial Royal Lieutenant Field Marshal and Governor-Commandant of the city and fortress of Mantua, in favour of crimoline. All of a sudden, on Sunday week, most of the ladies of Mantua went to church without crimolines. Those who did not follow the fashion were received by the gamins with hissing, hooting, and cries of "Abbass i crimolini!" The Lieutenant Field Marshal threatens to use the most severe measures to impede such mad attentions.

THE DEBT OF INDIA.—The total amount of the stocks, loans, debts, &c., chargeable on the East Indian revenues in India in April, 1858, was £72,426,828, of which £60,600,513 bore interest, and £11,826,315 did not. In England, at the end of last year, the amount was £30,517,837, including £4,979,517 of India Bonds, £14,556,000 of India Debentures, £4,999,000 of Five per Cent Stock, and £1,087,080 capital of Indian railways remaining in the Home Treasury. The registered debt of India (in India) is £50,709,601 bearing interest, and £69,511 not bearing interest.

LAST SATURDAY, attached to the mail train leaving Reading at 7.10 a.m. was a carriage containing a number of convicts. Two of them contrived, unnoticed by the officers in charge, to remove their irons, and simultaneously both sprang from the carriage. They have been retaken.

PRIVATE PROPERTY IN TIME OF WAR.—An influential deputation waited upon Lord Palmerston on Saturday to make proposals for the exemption of private property from capture in time of war. The deputation comprised representatives of the commerce of Leeds, Hull, Belfast, and other towns. The Premier at once said he would not flatter the deputation by leading them to believe that he agreed with their views; and he candidly went on to contend that private property was amenable at sea in times of war, and denied that it was exempted on land.

AS IT SHOULD BE.—About 300 girls are employed at a building in the laboratory department of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, for the purpose of making cartridges. As many of these were compelled from poverty and other causes to remain in the establishment during the day without food, Captain Boxer, the superintendent, has obtained permission to fit up a cooking apparatus, and measures will be adopted to supply a meal of soup, &c., at the charge of three halfpence.

IN PRussia the Minister of the Interior has ordered that the bastinado as an instrument of punishment for prisoners shall be abolished.

LAW AND CRIME.

WHEN the daily journals of Monday, the 30th ult., recorded, as having been exhibited at the parish church of St. George-in-the-East, a scene of flagrant disorder and outrage, there may have been not a few well-meaning persons who contrived to find in the details some matter for congratulation. It could scarcely be possible, thought many, that by any laxity on the part of authority, or by any defect in the law, could such a scene possibly be allowed to perpetrate. The dispute had reached its height. The ruffianism of Whitechapel, Shadwell, and Wapping might for once and unexpectedly display itself in casting hassocks and bibles at the church candelabra during divine service; but even parochial intelligence must be equal to the defeat of any such attempt a second time. Arrangements were hinted at which appeared to be based upon a kind of clerical and pugilistic coalition. Persons evidently attending for the purpose of riot were to be refused admission at the doors. The police were to be assembled in unusual force, and the magistracy had already pledged themselves to punish offenders, when caught, with the utmost severity of the law. Yet, after all this provision, the riot at the same place on the following Sunday, the 6th instant, exceeded the former in desperate impiety. The hassocks and bibles had been removed, and this was all. The police at the door freely allowed the lowest of beer-sodden ruffians to enter the sacred building. Within, and during the progress of what should have been Divine service, the riot transcends description. Pothouse choruses were sung by bands of men and boys, and the preachers were shouted at in the filthiest epithets of the street. Fights were got up simultaneously, and carried on continuously throughout the proceedings. As people do not ordinarily fight in the prosecution of a common design, we must incline to the belief that one-half of the combatants were engaged in pugilism on the part of peace and order. The churchwardens were seen hauling out individuals and consigning them to the care of the police outside. Yet when the prisoners were brought the next morning before the magistrate they proved to consist of three lads and a woman. The woman's only offence was that she had said, "Why, he has done nothing," on seeing one of the boys causelessly dragged off by the parochials, who have the usual parochial enmity to boys in general, as such. The case against the lads amounted "literally to nothing," according to the magistrate's own words. The prosecutors, added the same authority, had scarcely been happy in selecting the objects of their prosecution. The parochial complainants, bent upon characteristic absurdity, began to talk of concerted design, of anonymous adults, of designing persons who had escaped. They had evidently hazy ideas of mythical, respectfully-dressed ultra-Protestants wandering during the week into the lowest dens for miles round and inciting innocent blackguardism to come to church on Sunday and create a riot, simply to confer an obligation. Of course the fact is that no such thing was done, no such persons ever existed, and there was no need of them. If blackguards will not come unsolicited to a church for the sake of a riot, they certainly will not attend for the purpose of forwarding the theological views of any body or any party, however designing. The prisoners, who, having been pounced upon by the parochials, we may safely assume to have been the most innocent of the mob, were of course discharged. The magistrate, however, for the guidance of the parochials as well as for the information of actual culprits, announced that, among other Acts of Parliament applicable to the offences which had been committed, the 7th and 8th Geo. IV., cap. 30, enacted that persons riotously assembled, and juggling down, demolishing, or beginning to demolish, pull down, or destroy, any church or chapel, the offender on conviction should suffer death as a felon. The punishment is now commuted into penal servitude for life; but, as portions of St. George's Church have been destroyed, the real offenders fall clearly under liability to the last-named punishment. A correspondent of a contemporary proposes that on such an occasion the Riot Act should be read and the military, if necessary, called in. But the military cannot clearly be so employed in the interior of an edifice; and, moreover, it may be a question whether a party of soldiers shooting, stabbing, and braining a struggling mob, suffocating and crushing each other in frantic endeavours to escape through a pair of church doors, might not be a desecration almost as painful to witness as that of a few lads shooting peas at the Rev. Bryan King, or testifying the result of his pastoral efforts by singing "We won't go home till morning" in chorus from the gallery.

The adventures of a pair of loaded pistols, as last Saturday detailed at Bow-street Police Office, present about as ludicrous a series of stupidities as may be expected out of the realms of farce. In the first place, the two loaded pistols must be supposed by some mysterious agency to have come into the possession of an elderly female, Sarah Turner. Sarah is herself in a state of confusion upon this preliminary point, at one moment imagining and stating that they were presented to her as souvenirs by a man in the street, at another that they were left to her as a legacy by her husband, who never existed, and finally declaring them to have been a birthday gift from her mother. The domain of fancy is then quitted, and we attain to facts legally proved in evidence. Sarah takes the pistols to a bone-shop in Clare Market, thinking it probable the proprietor will invest in them, as being in his line. Another elderly female stands behind the counter, and, by way of testing the articles, amuses herself with pointing the muzzles at Sarah and pulling at the trigger; but the second elderly female has lately had an accident which has injured her fingers, and her weak efforts fail to discharge the weapons, so she appoints Sarah to call again at three o'clock in the afternoon. Sarah departs, and the proprietress of the shop, laying one of the pistols on her parlour table, leaves her infant son with it, while she takes up the other to a foolish lodger residing on the first floor. The lodger seizes the pistol and instantly fires it through the drawing-room table. The bullet penetrates the floor, and finally rests in the ceiling of the room beneath. The landlady, having thus ascertained the power of this particular firearm, leaves the room to discover the fate of the juvenile below. He is discovered poking the fire, in all the happy innocence of childhood, using the barrel of the second loaded pistol as a poker. Sarah Turner keeps her appointment, and is given into custody for the possession of the pistols, "supposed to have been stolen." As Sarah can give no better account of her property therein than we have already stated, she stands remanded for production of further evidence as to the ownership.

The advertisements published in certain contemporaries offering large premiums for temporary advances of money on ample security have been denounced as frauds, and exposed in detail so frequently, that Mr. Commissioner Murphy might reasonably be expected to be acquainted with the flagrant and deliberate dishonesty of the resulting transactions. On Friday last, however, one William Watson, described as a jeweller, applied to the learned Commissioner for a discharge from prison under the Insolvent Act. The prisoner's schedule exhibited debts to the amount of about £1000, chiefly for money borrowed upon promissory notes given to persons who had answered advertisements for money and who had received the securities promised them thereby. It was also shown that the prisoner had expended in such advertisements £150. Only one of his dupes—a poor old woman—attended to oppose the prisoner. This may perhaps be accounted for by the reluctance which any person possessing ordinary self respect might have to the avowal of having been duped by a shallow swindle. The old woman had advanced to the prisoner two sums of £20 each. On each occasion he had presented her with a gold watch of the ordinary "duffing" type, evidently put together for the purposes of fraud and for nothing else. He also deposited on each occasion certain duplicates representing the so-called "security." Of course the watches would not go, and the securities would scarcely realise the further advances required for their redemption. One might have reasonably expected that when the advertiser was "run to earth" by being brought before an Insolvent Commissioner some severe example would have been made for the benefit of him and his compeers. The protection afforded by the requirements of a criminal prosecution ought surely to be sufficient privilege for men of this class. But Mr. Commissioner Murphy treated the matter in the light of a bona fide transaction, simply unfortunate to the creditor. He said "she had made a bargain with her eyes open. It might be a very foolish one, but he could not

